# THE TIMES

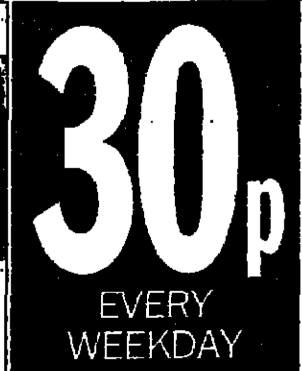
No. 66,408 TUESDAY JANUARY 12 1999 http://www.the-times.co.uk


KATE MUIR
What babies do to your brain
page 14

LIBBY PURVES
A divorce of convenience
page 15



Free books for schools
Millions to be collected
Today's token
page 24



30p EVERY WEEKDAY

# Santer pledges clean-up of EU sleaze

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

ALL European Union staff are to be bound by a code of conduct designed to curb corruption, nepotism and mismanagement under reforms accepted by Jacques Santer yesterday to avoid censure and the dismissal of all European Commissioners.

The Commission President also accepted a proposal from the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder for a high-level review of the Commission's workings by the Parliament and member states.

The concessions meant that the prospects of a censure motion receded, but MEPs' anger over the record of individual commissioners could still bring a damaging vote against Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain.

While the Parliament was far from satisfied with Mr Santer's failure to show more contrition, he appeared to have answered the main demands of the two big parliamentary groups, the Socialists and the centre-right European People's party. Rebels in each group are nevertheless expected to call for censure, as are the Greens and a handful of other groups, but they are unlikely to muster the necessary two-thirds majority.

The deal offered by Mr Santer gave all the signs of a prior accord with the leaders of the big parties. With all 19 commissioners around him, he acknowledged the gravity of the Parliament's confidence vote. "I am ready to bear my share of the responsibility for this," he said, but he pleaded that the Commission had been "victim of its own policy of transparency" in pursuing abuses.

Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who leads the Socialists, deplored the "culture of nepotism, patronage and financial gain" that prevailed in parts of the Commission. "This must be dealt with now," she said.

Mrs Green wanted details of the independent review this week and a timetable by March for negotiations on greater parliamentary involvement in Commission reform. In that case, she would vote against censure, she said: "The majority in my group wants the Commission to continue its work. Only an independent investigation will allow the Commission to regain confidence."

Wilfried Martens, the Belgian leader of the PPE, attacked "the rot in terms of irregularities, secrecy, fraud and petty corruption", and all the main groups attacked the Commission for punishing Paul van Buitenen, the Dutch official who blew the whistle on fraud last month.

Leading the charge for sacking the whole commission, Magda Alvoet, the Green leader, said it was time for the executive to take political responsibility for years of mismanagement. "We need a strong Commission to give strength to Europe," she said.

The MEPs' reluctance to oust the Commission is strongly backed by member Governments, which fear paralysis in the EU machine. The biggest danger for the Commission is a strong vote for a Liberal motion of no confidence in the French and Spanish commissioners, who have been most closely linked with multimillion-pound abuses in the administration of EU programmes. Although no device exists for the parliament to sack commissioners, the MEPs are hoping to shame the pair into resignation.

Mme Cresson, however, delivered an angry denial of any abuses under her responsibility for spending on vocational traning and Señor Marin, who is in charge of overseas development, said: "Never in my 14 years at the European Commission have I ever had anything to do with fraud corruption or covering it up."

Make or break, page 11



The lighthouse at Beachy Head in Eastbourne, Sussex, yesterday, connected to land after probably Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory

# Beachy Head cliff crashes into the sea

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

SAFETY experts were yesterday examining the coastal beauty spot at Beachy Head after a section of rockface crashed into the sea in what could be Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory.

The unmanned Beachy Head lighthouse has been effectively rejoined to the Sussex coast after thousands of tonnes of chalk fell 500ft into the sea at the weekend, filling in a popular 100-yard sea channel used extensively by tourists.

Experts believe the collapse may have been caused by water entering the chalk rock and expanding in volume on freezing, forcing the cliff to crumble. Beachy Head has the dubious distinction of being one of the world's most popular suicide spots. Last year more people jumped off it than San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Coastguards were last night warning people to keep their distance from the edge as officials from Eastbourne Council tried to establish how stable the remaining cliff face was.

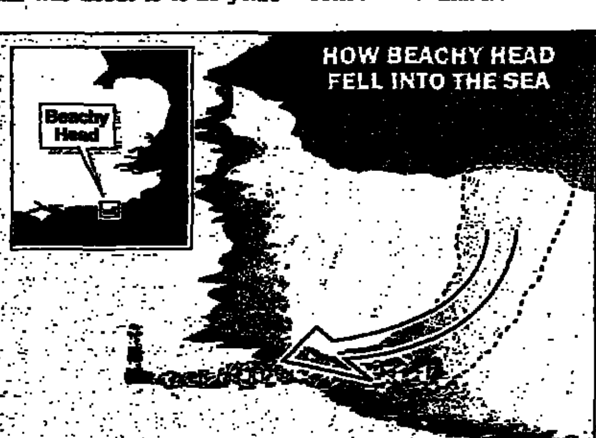
"It's a major change to the coastline," said one. It only takes one slip and you don't get a second chance."

The landslide was spotted over three miles out to sea by astonished lifeboat crew members from Eastbourne who estimate that a 50ft deep slab of cliff face fell away along a 200-yard stretch.

Eddie Buckland, a lifeboatman, said: "It's colossal. It's fallen down right out to the lighthouse and up to near the top of the stairs. The last big fall was about 15 to 20 years ago at the nudist beach about 600 yards east. But that's tiny compared to this one. It's got to go out over 100 yards."

Mark Sawyer, 36, a fellow crewman, said: "I have never seen anything like this before, none of us have. We were three and a half miles out to sea when we saw it and we could see it clearly."

He added: "It really is massive. I've been with the lifeboat crew for eight years and I've been fishing there since I was eight years old and I've never seen a fall of that size."




The Environment Agency, which is not responsible for cliffs but is responsible for beaches, was yesterday keeping a close eye on Beachy Head after confirming the enormity of the latest collapse. Ray Kemp, for the agency, said it was difficult to quantify, but it was certainly the largest by far in the area and probably the largest yet in Britain.

"Hundreds upon thousands of tonnes have gone. Chunks have been falling off Beachy Head for ages but never anything like the size of this." He said wave height in the Atlantic had increased by 10 per cent in the past decade and the sea was hitting the coastline harder.

"One minute we are in a drought situation and then the chalk is sodden. In eight months out of 12 we have had above average rainfall. The coastline is increasingly vulnerable as climate change starts to bite. What is happening is symptomatic of a whole range of circumstances. In my grandmother's time you could walk around Beachy Head, but that is impossible now."

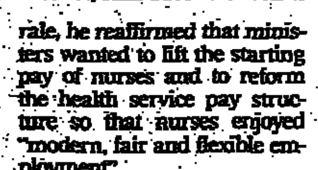
The latest collapse provides fresh evidence of how many coastal landmarks and properties around Britain are under threat from coastal erosion. In 1994 Holbeck Hall Hotel in Scarborough fell into the North Sea. Ten villages on a 40-mile stretch in Humberside are threatened with being abandoned as the North Sea continues to eat up the coastline at an estimated rate of 11 yards a year. Coastal erosion is also becoming a serious problem in eastern and southern England, with sea levels expected to rise by up to 20in over the next 50 years.

Over the years stormy seas have also ravaged chalk cliffs along South Down's coastline, leaving several homes perilously close to tumbling into the sea. The erosion has accelerated work to save the Belle Toute, a neighbouring lighthouse and the only permanently inhabited former lighthouse in Britain.




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# Blair makes NHS key to new Labour relaunch

BY ROLAND WATSON, JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

TONY BLAIR yesterday used the beleaguered health service as a means of reasserting the Government's authority and to deflect attention from the recent tide of personality-driven rifts and scandals.

On the first day of the new parliamentary term, the Prime Minister sanctioned an unexpected Commons statement from Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, after a fortnight that has seen emergency wards stretched to the limit.

Mr Dobson fell short of making any new announcements, but he repeated his hope that the Government would be able to fund this year's pay review body recommendations for nurses' pay in full. These could be as much as 10 per cent for the lowest paid nurses, in an attempt to solve the recruitment crisis.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in a speech to businessmen in Edinburgh, took up the theme. Hoping to raise morale, he reaffirmed that ministers wanted to lift the starting pay of nurses and to reform the health service pay structure so that nurses enjoyed "modern, fair and flexible employment".

Mr Brown said: "Specifically we have called for the review body to take into account the special circumstances of nurses, particularly nurses starting out in the NHS."

Mr Dobson used his Commons appearance to thank NHS staff for their recent efforts. However, he told MPs that the winter crisis, fuelled by flu victims turning up at casualty departments, could worsen under a prolonged spell of icy weather.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused him of complacency, saying that nothing in his statement would make the "slightest bit of difference to those now lying on trolleys in fear, in pain, waiting for treatment".

The Liberal Democrats joined the Opposition in urging the Government to end its headline policy of cutting waiting lists. Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, said the "obsession" was jeopardising the quality of treatment throughout the NHS.

Mr Dobson was asked repeatedly about the extent to which the treatment of routine waiting list cases was causing

Continued on page 2, col 5




# Yemen prepares to charge Britons

BY JAMES LANDALE AND DANIEL MCGRORY

FIVE Britons detained in Yemen on suspicion of plotting terrorist outrages are likely to be charged within 48 hours, Robin Cook told MPs yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary said that he had obtained assurances from the Yemeni Prime Minister that the men would have access to legal advice. British diplomats had seen four of them, but had been barred from seeing the fifth because he had dual British-Yemeni nationality. He would, however, be granted consular access within 36 hours.

Mr Cook also said that a police expert with experience in hostage negotiations was to be appointed to advise the Foreign Office and foreign governments on their handling of hostage taking.

He spoke as Yemeni ministers repeated their promise not to use force to try to free John Brooke, an oilworker from Norwich who was kidnapped on Saturday by tribesmen demanding the release of a comrade accused of murder.

While it was feared that Mr Brooke could be held captive for weeks, security chiefs were investigating the possible involvement of a London group headed by a Muslim cleric, known as Abu Hamza, who preaches at a mosque in Finsbury Park, north London, in an alleged plot to blow up British targets on Aden on Christmas Day.

One of the five Britons being held has allegedly confessed that he was paid $2,000 to bomb the British consulate, the Anglican church and Aden's biggest hotel.

The man, Mohsen Ghailan — who has the same name as the stepson of the London-based Muslim cleric — also allegedly admitted meeting Abu Hassan, the leader of the gang which abducted 16 western tourists before Christmas.

Mosque training, page 3

TODAY ON PAGE 16

The opinion formers.... Challenging minds in the changing Times



*Michael Gove*

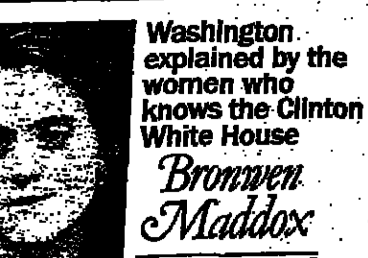
'Newspapers are not yet as savage as in the 18th century. Pity.'



*Libby Purves*

'One can occasionally pass out hugging a bottle of brandy'

TOMORROW



Washington explained by the women who knows the Clinton White House *Bronwen Maddox*



The Government's relaunch torpedoed by the man who sees beyond the spin *Simon Jenkins*



The greatest threat we face in 1999 by the Sage of Cricklewood *Alan Coren*

# Mandelson could be back before election

By Roland Watson and Jill Sherman

PETER MANDELSON could be back in the Cabinet before the end of next year, Downing Street insiders believe.

The timing of such a return to the frontline would allow the former Trade Secretary to perform a high-profile role in the next election campaign.

But the speed of his rehabilitation would alarm many Labour MPs who believe he should remain out of the limelight for the rest of this Parliament.

Tony Blair will by warned tomorrow by senior backbenchers that it would "misjudge the mood" for Mr Mandelson to be offered a fast track back to high office after his resignation over his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson.

"It would be too soon. Tony needs to keep his distance from him for a good while yet," one senior Labour MP said.

There has already been concern expressed that Mr Mandelson represented Mr Blair at a meeting last week with one of Gerhard Schröder's ministers to discuss policy-making.

However, Mr Blair is said by friends to see nothing wrong with bringing Mr Mandelson back during the course of next year. Realistically that would either be in a summer reshuffle, in about 18 months, or in an autumn reshuffle gearing up for an early election in the spring of 2001.

One option would be to bring him back not into the Cabinet but as a middle-ranking minister, possibly with responsibility for Europe.

Friends said yesterday that as well as being shocked and bemused by Mr Mandelson's error, Mr Blair has also been angered by the way his friend had let him down. But the pair have been in regular contact since his resignation, including speaking while Mr Blair



Mandelson: insiders predict Europe role

was on holiday in the Seychelles.

In his *Sunday* interview with Sir David Frost, Mr Blair pointedly left open the door to the MP for Hartlepool, saying, "the future will look after itself".

MPs also plan to confront Mr Blair over the operation of ministerial spin-doctors, using the departure of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's colourful press secretary, to warn the Prime Minister that the settling of old scores between Labour's rival factions has to stop.

One senior Labour MP spoke yesterday of the need to avoid a "Thatcher/Lawson situation", a clear warning to Mr Blair to ensure his camp-followers and those of the Chancellor stop their feuding.

Clive Soley, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said last night that after the recent episodes there had to be "a line underneath all that".

He said: "This business of personal feuds between people and people getting into the sort of situation that Peter got into must be put behind us. It has happened now but it must n't happen any more."

There was support for Robin Cook among Labour MPs after the serialisation of his ex-wife's book. MPs said they did not believe her assertion that Mr Cook had been a heavy drinker in the late 1980s.

"Robin Cook is no George Brown," said one MP, a reference to Labour's Foreign Secretary during the 1960s whose drinking habits were notorious and embarrassing to the party.

Several MPs suggested that the Government had been seriously damaged during the past few weeks but stressed that the guilty culprits were not leftwingers nor Old Labour MPs, but modernisers.

"The Parliamentary Labour Party has kept quiet throughout this period. The finger cannot be pointed at us for what has happened over Christmas," said one MP.

Another leftwinger said almost gleefully: "The Campaign group has not been responsible for any of this. It is the rightwingers, new Labour, that have brought this upon themselves."

# Straw keeps secrets code

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JACK STRAW is to water down plans to end secrecy in government. He has decided to remove the word "substantial" from the harm test which would decide disclosure of documents to the public. The change is to be included in the draft Freedom of Information Bill next month.

A "substantial harm" test would have given Britain the most open freedom of information laws in the world and was set out in last summer's White Paper after a deal between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, and David Clark, then Public Services Minister. But Mr Straw — who was given charge of drafting the Bill after Dr Clark was sacked from the Cabinet — was concerned that it could compromise police and intelligence work and assist criminal activities.

However, Mr Straw is willing to offer a compromise giving the public a greater "right to know" about the law enforcement agencies including police, customs, and environmental inspectors. Only information relating to prosecutions and investigations would be barred. Mr Straw has asked officials to draw up separate definitions of harm for: national security, defence and international relations; law enforcement; personal privacy; commercial confidentiality; safety of the individual, the public and the environment; information supplied in confidence; and official advice to ministers.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for the Freedom of Information, said last night: "It is clear to me that the substantial harm test is being whittled away."



Nurses struggle with a heavy workload at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary

# NHS key to relaunch

Continued from page 1

the backlog of emergency cases, but declined to answer.

Ministers are expecting to receive the recommendations of the medical pay review bodies in the next few days.

Although City forecasts show the Government could afford an above-average pay rise for nurses, Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said that any rise would have to be gradual over three or four years.

"A more generous settlement this year would have very serious implications for the NHS," he said. "There will be precious little left of the Government's modernisation fund if nurses are given a big pay rise."

However, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said that even a 5 per cent rise would not make an impact on the nursing shorgage.

"Jam tomorrow is an unacceptable promise. It is nurse shortages that have led to this year's crisis in the NHS. We cannot provide good patient care when we are short of some 12,000 nurses. A good pay rise would boost numbers immediately."

In what was seen as a relaunch of New Labour, the Government also made clear that it would use this week to make a number of policy announcements and keynote speeches in a bid to get its modernsing agenda back on track.

Michael Gove, page 16
Leading article, page 17

# Kitemark register for nanny agencies

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

A NEW national register for private nanny agencies is to be announced by the Government today as part of package of measures designed to stamp out rogue operators who fail to carry out proper checks on prospective employees.

The new measures, to be announced by the Education Minister, Margaret Hodge, include the introduction the first kitemark system of accreditation for nanny agencies.

Only agencies that undertake to conduct a face-to-face interview with nannies will qualify for a kitemark and for inclusion on the register. The register will be voluntary initially, but may be made compulsory in the future.

The measures follow the Louise Woodward trial in America and a number of high-profile court cases in Britain in which children have died while being cared for by nannies or childminders.

Under the new measures, the Department of Trade and Industry will be given stronger powers to close any agency found not to have properly vetted prospective nannies.

The Government will also produce a leaflet for parents advising them what they should look out for when employing a nanny and what kind of questions to ask a prospective nanny.

Local authorities will be issued with new good practice guidelines on vetting childcare workers. In future all childminders will be asked to provide a copy of their birth and marriage certificates, to enable police checks to be carried out on them under their maiden and married names.



# General Howard rides to the rescue of wounded enemy



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

With enemies like these, who needs friends? Michael Howard yesterday executed a daring rescue of the beleagured Robin Cook.

Just when Cook's and the Government's domestic position looked hopeless — ambushed, coralled and media-bashed — who should come riding over the horizon to save them? Hooray! It was the Conservative Party, led by General Howard.

Is it any longer true that ministers are safest when the Commons is in recess? By the end of the holiday this weekend, things had looked bleak for the Foreign Secretary. An aggrieved ex-wife had laid into him in a savage book.

The press had been merciless. Spinning through the public mind were images of the elfin Mr Cook with brandy bottle, comatose on a hotel floor; tales of fear and loathing in Cabinet; and flights of sexual fancy that took Mr Cook's wispy beard to pillows hitherto undreamed of. Poor Cook. Whence the next blow?

From the Tories' Michael Howard. Phew. Immediately, sympathy switched back to Cook. The testimony of a scorned woman bent on revenge may be Gospel in the Britain of 1999 — but the evidence of the Conservative Party? Ah, unreliable. Who believes them? Don't they have an axe to grind? Unlike Margaret Cook, of course.

Cook spoke well on the Yemeni problems, but the mood behind him seemed subdued. In the clearest sign yet that new Labour's honeymoon is over, there was only one woman on the government benches in primary colours. Eleven — more than half — wore black.

Faces, male and female, were impassive. The Foreign Secretary was heard in silence and afterwards feebly cheered. If this was Cook's "fightback" then the fighter was missing crowd-approval.

Then Michael Howard rose, looking sinister, but I repeat myself. Reporters dropped their pencils: just because their newspapers were critical of Labour did not mean they wanted to be associated with this Tory lot.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary began harmlessly, with a few inquiries into what is, for a few families in Britain, the most heartbreaking story. He soon forgot this. New Year's goodwill ran out before he was halfway round the block. Within minutes he was using the Yemen as a stick with which to beat the Government's handling of the Northern Ireland peace process, which he said had involved the release, too early, of convicted terrorists.

There were angry cries of Shame! Cheap! and Disgraceful! from the Labour benches. Whatever their doubts about Mr Cook, this, they felt, was contemptible.

Then Howard began a personal attack on Cook's competence in office. With four hostages killed in the Yemen, and one still kidnapped, this was not the moment. Irritation on the Labour side turned to rage. Howard had accomplished the unlikely feat of turning the villain of Margaret Cook's memoir into an object of Commons sympathy.

Cook perked up. With brisk confidence he answered the questions that followed. His recovery had begun . . .

Then, just as his skies began to clear, who should come galloping over the horizon? The maverick leftwinger and scourge of Tony Blair's bombing of Iraq: George Galloway (Lab, Glasgow, Hillhead). And — oh no! — Galloway was *supporting* Cook.

The last time Mr Galloway hit the front page of *The Sun* was 12 years ago, when claims surfaced about a torrid episode involving women on the Greek island of Mykonos. The headline was "Gorgeous George Bonked for Britain!"

And now the Scot was praising Robin Cook — "masterful" he gushed. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

# Teachers back Blunkett's old-style numeracy hour

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

TEACHERS' leaders yesterday welcomed a £55 million drive to improve children's numeracy through the daily use of multiplication tables and other traditional methods, but Tories said that the Government should only focus on the worst-performing schools.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, confirmed the introduction of a numeracy hour in primary schools from next September after children involved in pilot projects recorded better results than their peers. Some made an extra 16 months' progress in two years. The daily mathematics lessons of between 45 minutes and an hour will be less closely prescribed than those introduced for literacy last September.

The numeracy drive is intended to meet the Government's target of 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching their expected level in mathematics. Every school will have its own target, reflecting the ability of its intake.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, welcomed the scheme, but said: "Politicians, including many from the Labour Party, were prominent among those groups of people, pontificating at a very safe distance from the classroom, who somehow managed to persuade many teachers in the 1960s and 70s to give up tried and tested traditional methods." Kay Driver, the general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, said: "The Government appears to have done its own sums and produced a formula which will improve basic standards for pupils."

But David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that there was no need for a national scheme. "Good schools already doing well don't need the distraction of being told how to teach, and bad schools won't have enough support to achieve the improvement they need," he said.

Leading article, page 17

# Liverpool alarm at DUP move

By Russell Jenkins

POLITICAL leaders in Liverpool gave warning yesterday that the establishment of a branch of the Democratic Unionist Party in the area could reopen old sectarian wounds.

The prospect of the DUP fielding candidates in the city council elections in May dismayed Mike Storey, the council's Liberal Democrat leader, and also the opposition parties and the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches — whose leaders in the area have long campaigned for tolerance.

A local DUP spokesman said it was setting up a branch because of "unprecedented levels of interest" in Unionism from people in the region.

هكذا من الإصل:

# Young Muslims given military training at mosque in London

## Group accused of Yemen plot link spreads message on Internet, write Adrian Lee and Stephen Farrell

A RADICAL London-based Muslim organisation, which has been linked to a terrorist plot to bomb British targets in Yemen, has a website that depicts a hand grenade and promotes the use of extreme violence.

The Supporters of Shariah used the Internet to recruit young people for a camp at which military training was taught. Yesterday the group's leader, Abu Hamza, a prominent Muslim cleric who preaches at the Finsbury Park Mosque in North London, admitted that one of the British subjects being held in Yemen for the alleged plot might be his stepson.

A second Briton could be one of the organisers of the "Islamic Camp" held at the mosque, from December 24 to 26 last year, said Mr Hamza.

The mosque itself — misspelt as Finnsbury — appears prominently on the Supporters of Shariah website, which mixes graphics with English and Arabic text. "Shariah" is Muslim holy law. On one page, a hand grenade and dumbbell appear above details of study of the Koran and contact numbers for the group's organisers. Elsewhere audio and video tapes are offered at £1 and £5, and supporters are urged to contact Abu Hamza at his e-mail address.

Mr Hamza, who initially claimed that he did not know any of the five men under suspicion, said that the grenade was simply a cartoon and that the camp, attended by 30 young men, was arranged to distract them from Christmas and "the obscenity of television". At the camp, men were taught "to become like military men, to become a soldier". The leader said that he believed in the use of violence to counter state terrorism: "I write about what I believe in." The website also advertises "special lectures for sisters . . . and the role of our women in the field of Jihad [holy war]". It carries a 17-page "declaration of war" against the United States by Osama bin Laden, the man suspected of last August's bombing of American targets in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people. The tract contains the exhortation: "The walls of oppression and humiliation cannot be demolished except in a rain of bullets."

Yesterday Mr Hamza, 41, accused the Yemeni authorities of trying to blacken his name. He confirmed that the name of one of those arrested, Mohsen Ghailan, matched that of his stepson, but said that it was also possible that someone had used his documents and those of another suspect, Sarmad Ahmed, to implicate them both in the plot.

Mr Hamza's natural son, Mohammed Kamel Mustapha, 17, is believed to be in Yemen, where he is wanted by the authorities. On the website, those interested in the camp are asked to reply to Sarmad and a mobile telephone number is listed. One of the Britons under arrest in Yemen is Sarmad Ahmed, 21, an accountancy student from Yardley, Birmingham. A man answering the mobile telephone yesterday said that he had bought it from a man called Sarmad and that the previous owner was in Yemen.

The website says that Supporters of Shariah members "have been supporting the Mujahidin as well as refugees in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kashmir as well as the frontline soldiers". Mr Hamza, who was born in Egypt, has no hands and claims to have lost them while fighting with the Mujahidin. He has been a British citizen since 1985 and holds a degree in civil engineering.

Relatives of Mohsen Ghailan, from Hammersmith, West London, whose parents were born in Morocco, poured scorn on allegations by the Yemeni authorities that he was a terrorist. His aunt, Susan Faoud, said yesterday: "He is young — what does he know about arms?" He was an engineering student who was widely travelled and had visited Yemen to broaden his mind, she said.

She added that her French-born fiancé, Abdharam James, 25, who was with the five Britons, had also been seized by the authorities in Yemen. She said that her nephew had no links to Supporters of Shariah, nor Mr Hamza. She said: "They just need someone to blame. They have picked on a child."

Families of the detainees gathered in Birmingham yesterday to campaign for their release. Monica Davis, 23, a student from Luton, Bedfordshire, said that her husband, Ghulam Hussein, 25, was apolitical, in poor health, and had simply gone to Yemen for Ramadan.

He and two other Britons seized, Malik Nassar Harhara, 26, and Shaheed Akran Bet, have no known links with the Supporters of Shariah.

Ms Davis said that her husband travelled to Yemen on December 18, expecting her and their 18-month-old daughter, Hannah, to fly out a week later. She said: "We are finding it very difficult to get any help from the British Government. They have not contacted any of the families and it's disgusting. They are English nationals and you would have expected something to have been done.

"He went out to Yemen on his own and I think what's happened is that, being in an Arab country, you tend to listen out for English-speaking people and that's what my husband did. He has got talking to other people and he has been rounded up with them and lumped together."

Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, leader of the self-styled Muslim parliament in Britain, said that he "deplored" Mr Hamza's extreme views. He said: "You will always find people in any society with views like this man and I find what he has to say deplorable and I am dismayed by his thoughts.

"I do not think that the vast majority of Muslims will share this man's views and it harms our cause and reflects badly on our religion."



Islamic Camp

No: 4

to be held

24/25/26th December

- Finnsbury Park Mosque -

o Quran Study, Tafseer and Fiqh

o Qiyam Al-layl

£28 Adults - £10 Children - £45 Full Family

Abu Hamza and the Internet advertisement for the camp, which he says was arranged to distract young men from Christmas television



Held captive in Yemen: Ghulam Hussein, Shahid Bett, Sarmad Ahmed and Malik Nassar Harhara

# Whippet breeding pair were stabbed to death

By Michael Horsnell and Stewart Tendler

A RECLUSIVE elderly woman and her middle-aged unmarried daughter have been found stabbed to death in their remote country home, Norfolk police said yesterday.

Constance Sheridan, 70, and her daughter Janice, 45, were keen breeders of whippets and Miss Sheridan had won prizes at Crufts. When police broke into their home they found more than a dozen of the dogs pining for their owners.

As detectives launched a murder hunt with 50 officers, police said the pair were found in the lounge of their home at Pingle Bridge, about a mile from the village of Upwell, between Downham Market and Wisbech. They were last seen on Thursday, and their bodies were found on Sunday.

Police were yesterday still searching for next of kin to carry out a formal identification. The two had been living in the area for about ten years.

Police were alerted after John Bromiley, another dog breeder who employed Miss Sheridan to walk his dogs, became worried when she failed to turn up for work on Sunday. When he reached the house there was no reply, but Miss Sheridan's car was in the drive and her dogs were barking furiously. After talking to a neighbour who had not seen them, he decided to call police.

Mr Bromiley said he had known Miss Sheridan, a former poultry factory worker, for five years. He added: "She used to work for me just to earn some pin money to help feed her dogs. She was just a lovely person who lived for her whippets. She had no social life outside her dogs."

Police said both women had died from stab wounds. A police spokesman said: "We are treating the deaths as suspicious until post-mortem examinations have been completed."

He added that detectives believed the women had been stabbed with a knife, but no murder weapon had been found. He said there was no obvious sign of a break-in, although police could not yet rule out that possibility.

# Oxford ban on protest students

By Hannah Betts

SIX Oxford students were banned from the university's premises yesterday as the deadline expired for protesters over tuition fees to abandon their campaign and pay up.

The six cannot be entered for university examinations or use the Bodleian Library. On Sunday, the first day of term, the identity cards that allow them access to university facilities will be removed.

One student at St Hilda's College and two at Somerville have declared in writing to the university their intention not to pay. A further three have ignored the deadline for payment, in effect adding themselves to the list of banned students. They are campaigning against the introduction by the Government of a £1,000 charge for undergraduates.

The students will be able to use their college libraries and take part in college tutorials, although they will be barred from university lectures.

# No payout over squirrel's visit

By Sue Lappeman

A RETIRED couple returned to their house after a three-day holiday to find that it had been ransacked, causing damage amounting to £5,000.

Desmond and Veronica Green's home was strewn with broken crockery, pictures had been pulled down and the curtains were hanging in ribbons.

But their insurance company has refused to pay for the damage because the culprit — which probably fell down a chimney — was a squirrel. The company says that it does not cover damage by most animals.

Mr Green, 71, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, said: "It is bad enough having such a strange thing happen to you, the damage the squirrel has caused is amazing. But for your insurance company to say there is nothing it can do is ridiculous."

A neighbour came face-to-face with the intruder after the couple's alarm went off while they were in London visiting their daughter.

Mr Green said: "The squirrel looked at him and then bolted further into the house. After a lengthy struggle and a lot of chasing he managed to usher the animal out of the house. There was stuff everywhere, broken china in the hall and on the stairs, nibbled picture frames on the floor, an antique chair was attacked."

A spokesman for the insurers, Saga, said that while its cover excluded damage by most animals the company was considering amending its policy in future.

Mr Green said: "The matter is now in the hands of my solicitor, who is seeing if there have been any other cases like it."

Dave Dawson, of the London Ecology Unit, said squirrels were not known as home wreckers though they could cause minor damage by nesting in lofts. But he added: "Any animal will go crazy if it thinks it is cornered."

# Brit award record for the taking

By Alex O'Connell

ROBBIE WILLIAMS last night rounded off a year in which he was transformed from also-ran to superstar with a record number of nominations at the Brit Awards.

The former member of the defunct boy band Take That is up for a dozen awards including Best Single for *Angels* and *Millennium*, a song he has said he dislikes.

Williams, who is engaged to the All Saint singer Nicole Appleton, has also been nominated for Best British Male, Best Album for *I've Been Expecting You* and for two entries in Best British Video.

Trailing him with five nominations are Massive Attack, Gomez, Catatonia, the Manic Street Preachers and Fat Boy Slim each received three nominations.

The Eurythmics are to receive this year's award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music at the ceremony on February 16.

# Greek tragedy of long-lost loves

## John Carr on an unhappy ending to romance of couple parted by war

AN 80-YEAR-OLD Greek woman who had waited almost 60 years to be reunited with the Italian soldier she loved died on Sunday, less than a year before the couple were finally to wed.

In a drama that could have been lifted from the pages of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, Angeliki Stratigou ended her lonely life in a hospital in the western Greek city of Patra, expecting that her Second World War romance with Luigi Surace would finally lead them both to the altar at the end of this year.

At her funeral yesterday, relatives described how hours before her death Signorina Stratigou received two postcards from Signor Surace ending with the phrase "Amore Sempre", or eternal love. Doctors said she suffered a stroke after kidney failure. "Ti Aspetto Con Grande Amore" (I await you with great love) were reportedly her last words to Signor Surace, 81, who his unwell at his home in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy. His relatives told Greek television that he had not yet been told of Signorina Stratigou's death.

The two were brought together after a 53-year separation by reporters on Skai, a television network, after Signor Surace's letters to his love were repeatedly returned. The couple met in 1941, when Axis forces overran Greece. Signorina Stratigou said she remembered Luigi as a handsome non-commissioned officer who wooed her with food from the Italian Army's stores when hundreds of Greeks were dying of starvation. When those Italian soldiers who survived German massacres had to leave, Signor Surace asked for her hand. But Signorina Stratigou, fearing for her reputation if she married an Italian, refused.

His first letters to his wartime love apparently having got nowhere, Signor Surace's thoughts turned again to her after his wife died in 1995. He wrote to Patra City Council, which notified Skai TV. Reporters arranged the couple's reunion last February.



*Angeliki Stratigou and Luigi Surace after 53 years apart*



A ten-year-old British boy has become the youngest chess player to qualify for a national championship final (Elizabeth Judge writes).

# Boy's pieces of history

Murugan Thiruchelvam, above, qualified for the British Chess Championship after taking second place in the Fulprint York Open with four wins and a draw from five games. He has broken the world record by more than a year.

Nigel Short, a grandmaster, currently ranked second in the country and the British world title challenger, qualified for the championship when he was 11. Murugan, from New Malden, southwest London, will now compete for the Smith and Williamson British Championship in August.

The feat was Murugan's fourth world record. At the age of six, he became the youngest tournament winner. Last October he became the youngest person to draw with a grandmaster and to achieve a rating equivalent to that of an international master's. In 1997, within a few months, he won the British Under-8s Chess Championship, the England Under-11 and London Under-12 titles.

Grete White, the British Chess Federation manager, said: "This is very exciting and we look forward to seeing even higher performances. He is regarded as an outstanding prospect as well as a level-headed child."

Murugan began playing chess when he was three after seeing his brother playing on a computer. Neither his father, Kandiah, nor his mother, Shantha, who came to Britain from Sri Lanka 20 years ago, play. His mother said: "He really is a normal boy, who supports Manchester United and likes computer games, but also happens to be good at chess."

# Knox's spirit could save MSPs

BY JASON ALLARDYCE
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

POLITICIANS could be reduced to smuggling beer into Scotland's first parliament in 300 years to get round an alcohol ban, a senior candidate claimed last night.

Angus Robertson, who will be standing for the Scottish National Party, described the prohibition that will apply during the first two years of the administration as "ridiculous".

The rule was imposed by the Church of Scotland, which is allowing Assembly Hall, the base for its annual general assembly, to be used as the parliament's temporary home until a purpose-built complex at Holyrood is ready in 2001.

At Westminster, much of the real business is conducted in six bars and function rooms with bars. Several restaurants are also licensed to serve alcohol, and drink costs about two thirds of the commercial rate.

Mr Robertson, 29, a Guinness drinker who has worked as a journalist all over Europe, said: "This will be the first parliament in the western world without a bar. You can imagine all these Members of the Scottish Parliament walking about with plastic bags containing lager cans."

Dennis Canavan, the Labour MP who is standing as an independent in Falkirk after being rejected as an official Labour candidate, was equally unimpressed. An Edinburgh drinker in his student days, Mr Canavan suggested that MPs could perhaps get around the problem by naming the bar after John Knox, a hardline preacher in the Scottish Reformation who lived in the capital.

"Maybe the Church could be persuaded to give us a special dispensation to have a temporary bar which we could call John Knox's pulpit where we could get regular spiritual refreshment."

A Church of Scotland spokesman said it was normal to impose a prohibition on the sale and supply of alcohol in church buildings on the basis that this was inappropriate. He suggested, however, that it might be acceptable for Ministers to provide alcohol at receptions and for MSPs to have a tipple after a day of debating.

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said that the plans for the Holyrood building included a bar and dining areas may also be licensed.

In the meantime, Edinburgh's pubs are bracing themselves for a mass invasion by the 129 MSPs and their staff, and are already applying for late licences.





Lamprey: shows that the river is cleaner

# Welcome back to an ugly vampire

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT IS not usually one of nature's most pleasing sights, but yesterday an ugly marine vampire was being welcomed to a Welsh river. Widespread findings of lamprey on the Usk are an indication that conservation work is paying off.

The lamprey, once considered a delicacy by royalty, needs clean, healthy water to thrive. The fish was discovered at nearly 40 sites on the river in South Wales.

The sea lamprey, the largest of the three main varieties, returns to the river of its birth to spawn and can grow to 4ft in length and 5.5lb in weight. Unlike other fish, it has no scales or jaws and is covered in a thick layer of protective mucus. The elusive parasites attach themselves to sea prey and drain their blood.

The migratory fish have been in long-term decline in many rivers because access to spawning grounds has been blocked by dams, weirs and barrages. The lampreys found by the survey were mainly in their larval form in which they resemble earthworms.

Only when the fish is fully grown will it migrate downstream in search of suitable prey. Tristan Hatton-Ellis, freshwater ecologist for the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "They mainly feed at sea on whatever is available. They tend not to attack fresh-water fish."

The death of Henry I in Normandy in 1135 was blamed on his eating surfeit of lampreys. They are said to be best stewed with wine.

The Great Lakes of Canada are also suffering a surfeit of lampreys as an invasion of the seagoing variety is destroying stocks of native fish. Unlike most species of marine fish, which have co-evolved with the lamprey, those in the Great Lakes had not encountered them before. The result has been a vampyric massacre that has cost the fishing industry millions in lost catches.

## CORRECTION

An article, Organic farming takes root in the South (January 8), should have explained that the research was done by Ruth Arber, of Coventry University, under the supervision of Professor Brian Ilbery.

# Inmates praise tough regime at 'boot camp'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFENDERS at the only "boot camp" in England and Wales have praised the tough regime of drill and physical exercise provided there, according to an inspection report published today.

The young inmates even complained that they were bored at weekends when no organised activities were provided by the special unit at Thorn Cross young offender institution at Warrington, Cheshire. They told Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, that the rigorous 16-hour daily regime was better than at any other prison institution in the country.

They found the six-month programme "positive, constructive but hard". It combines strenuous physical activity with the teaching of social and life skills and vocational training in work such as plastering, catering and motor mechanics.

Sir David's report praises the institution and particularly the High Intensity Training Unit — the part of Thorn Cross that has been dubbed a "boot camp". He praised the integration of academic and physical education into the daily programme, and the use of challenging outdoor pursuits and of work in the community.

His report says prisoners are subjected to a very long and physically demanding day, which starts at 6am with the cleaning of the unit, inspections and drill. They continue with formal activities, including up to four hours' physical education a day, until 8.30pm. Lights are put out at 10pm.

Sir David says: "Young prisoners' rooms were inspected daily and they were expected to maintain military-style standards with kit arranged in the prescribed way and highly polished boots.

"Young prisoners also took responsibility for cleaning the whole unit and jobs were rotated so that all were involved. Young prisoners clearly took a great deal of pride in this area of their work and the standard of cleanliness was the highest we have seen in a prison."

"Drill training" was an important element of the regime and used to encourage discipline, team spirit and confidence. "At the weekends there was a full parade with a governor's inspection. Young prisoners were provided with a 'best' uniform for such occasions, which they also wore when on visits. Physical education was maintained throughout the programme with all young prisoners completing at least one session daily," the report says. The outdoor pursuits course was particularly physically demanding, and encouraged leadership and teamwork in a harsh environment.

Inmates not on the high-intensity programme were envious of those who were. They complained that those in the "boot camp" got the best of everything.

The report said that 218 offenders had joined the special unit, but only 161 had successfully completed all stages. Offenders who failed did so because they absconded or did not keep to the strict conditions under which they worked in the community.

Sir David found the high-intensity programme one of the most exciting developments in the Prison Service. "It was an inspiring attempt to create a whole regime . . . young prisoners completing the course had a real opportunity to benefit from the experience of being in prison, something far removed from the often very destructive nature of prison life."

A second boot camp, run by the Army at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, Essex, was closed last year after 12 months because the Government said the results did not warrant the £31,000 a year it cost per inmate. The findings of a study of the Colchester experiment have not yet been published.

An evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of the experiment at Thorn Cross in preventing reoffending is to be published this summer.

Ramsbotham interview, page 15

# Ashworth inquiry backs drugs and porn claims

BY MARK HENDERSON

CONVICTED sex offenders at a Merseyside secure hospital were allowed to play with children without supervision and deal in pornography and drugs, a report reveals today.

The findings of the public inquiry into Ashworth Special Hospital, set up after a patient absconded and blew the whistle on the lax regime, will be presented to the House of Commons by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

The inquiry is said to have reached "devastating" conclusions, and to uphold almost all the allegations made by Stephen Daggett, a sex offender who went on the run in 1996. His claims that drugs and pornography were freely available and paedophile activity commonplace were initially dismissed by the hospital.

Mr Dobson is expected to announce a reorganisation of Britain's secure hospitals to prevent a similar scandal. Patients at Ashworth, Rampton in Nottinghamshire and Broadmoor in Berkshire will face stricter conditions, with perks such as videos and computers banned. There are also plans to hold violent offenders with untreatable "personality disorders" in special prison units rather than hospitals.

The inquiry, chaired by the retired judge Peter Fallon, QC, started sitting in November 1996 and has heard alarming evidence of staff lapses and serious crimes at the hospital. An eight-year-old girl was allowed to visit a convicted paedophile, and was often seen dressed only in underpants being given piggy-back rides or bounced on his knee, the inquiry was told.

Patients were allowed to design and build a garden riddled with hiding places for drugs and spots where they could not be observed by nurses, and several ran illegal businesses from their rooms.

Alcohol, drugs and pornography were openly available. Staff were often involved in the rackets, and illegal tapes were so widespread that more than 800were seized in one search.

# PC 'stole' £700 from disabled pensioner

## Officer took money while giving an 83-year-old woman advice on crime prevention, writes Paul Wilkinson

A POLICE officer stole £700 *from an* 83-year-old disabled woman after calling at her home to give advice on crime prevention, a court was told yesterday.

Kenneth Davies, an officer with West Yorkshire Police for almost six years, has denied stealing the money from the home of Doris Midwood between January 1 and 18 last year. He has been suspended on full pay since his arrest almost a year ago.

Simon Goose, for the prosecution, told the jury at Leeds Crown Court that Mrs Midwood regularly put £50 from her pension in a box in her home. She stored the money in a layer of £20 notes separated by an envelope from a layer of £10 notes.

In December 1997 she contacted the police station near her home in Shipley for advice on crime prevention, and PC Davies was sent to her flat. Mrs Midwood, who is in a wheelchair, told the jury: "He asked me where I kept my money and I said it was in a box in my bureau."

The court was told that PC Davies said she should keep it in a safe tin. He helped her to hide the money and promised to return with an alarm and tins. He returned on January 10 with two safe tins and Mrs Midwood gave him her box of money to hold.

After filling one of the tins, PC Davies told her to hide it in a kitchen cupboard. She took it into the kitchen, leaving him alone with her savings. When she returned, he handed her the second tin to hide in the cupboard. He then left the house, saying he would return with locks for the doors.

But that evening she became worried about the money. "I was sure he couldn't have put it all in the tins and I was curious," she said. "I opened the tins and there was only a few £10 notes. He had taken the £20 notes, which I had kept separate. I never saw him again."



PC Davies: said he would have returned the money

Mrs Midwood alerted police and two officers visited PC Davies's home on January 21. PC Davies went upstairs, changed his top and said that he wanted to walk his dog while his house was being searched. The officers became suspicious and searched him, finding an envelope containing £910 in his trousers.

When he was interviewed later, PC Davies admitted taking £700. He said: "I removed some notes from a box and I put them inside my jacket pocket." Later in the interview he said: "It was a dishonest act."

Davies, 44, from Bradford, admitted in court that he had taken the money, but said that he had immediately wanted to give it back and had not stolen it. He told the jury that, at the time of the incident, he was under stress. He had suffered depression since the death of his mother-in-law in 1996 and the death of his daughter's boyfriend in 1997.

He told the court that he took the money home for safekeeping, intending to return it later.

"It was confusing and frightening. I was scared for my family, for my job, for my house and for my kids," he said.

The trial continues.



DAVID DYSON

Kenneth Clarke yesterday: "In the rainforest, it is extremely difficult to shave"

# Clarke's weeks on the wild side

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter

BEARDING Tory convention, Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, returned from his holiday in Barbados yesterday sporting a chinful of rugged bristles. The new look, Mr Clarke said, was the result of the tropical conditions, which precluded the use of a razor. "I've been on a birdwatching holiday in the rainforest, where it is extremely difficult to shave," he said.

Perhaps aware that no Conservative leader has had facial hair since the days of Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan, Mr Clarke said that he intended to dispose of the whiskers upon returning to his constituency home in Nottinghamshire.

Some of those close to Mr Clarke, however, thought he might change his mind. He had, after all, once revealed an intention to grow an "Ernest Hemingway-type beard", and his current crop is not unlike those favoured by the Fifties jazz musicians he reveres.

# Panel of seven to rule on Pinochet

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

SEVEN law lords have been appointed to rehearse General Pinochet's appeal in the House of Lords next week. The decision for a rare sitting of seven, rather than the usual five, was announced yesterday as the law lords held a special meeting with Lord Hoffmann.

It was the first time Lord Hoffmann has met his colleagues since they were forced to set aside their ruling because he failed to disclose links with Amnesty International. The hour-long meeting in the House of Lords — to discuss new ground rules on disclosure of interests and avoid a repeat fiasco — was entirely amicable.

Lord Hoffmann's future is not thought to have been discussed and he is not believed to have offered any apology for what happened. Nor was one sought for making them what one judge has called "a laughing stock".

But some senior judges fear that he is preparing to ride out the storm, and a number feel that he should resign.

The seven law lords who will rehear the case next Monday are Lords Browne-Wilkinson, Goff of Chieveley, Hope of Craighead, Hutton, Saville of Newdigate, Millett and Phillips. The first four were on the panel that decided unanimously to set aside the original House of Lords ruling before Christmas. The remaining three have not been involved with the case at all.

Later this week the law lords will publish their reasons for setting aside the 3-2 ruling denying General Pinochet immunity from prosecution.

Law, page 37

# Wigs give law a bad name, says judge

By Frances Gibb

ONE of the most senior judges in England has called for the abolition of wigs, which he says are "positively damaging to the image of the civil justice system".

Sir Richard Scott, who as Vice-Chancellor is head of the High Court Chancery Division, says that wigs present a picture of the law that is "antiquated and foolish".

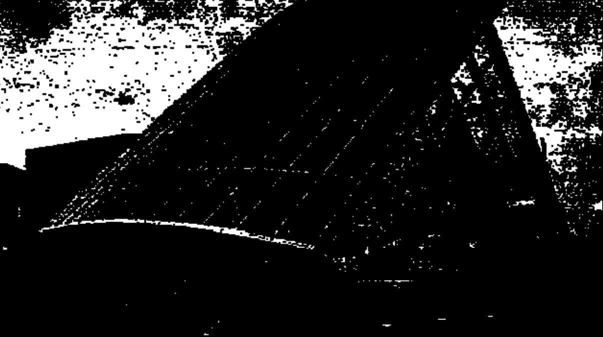
He also castigates judges who want to keep wigs as behaving like "diehards who still wear top hats in the hunting field" out of a "hankering for the past and for tribal badges of status".

Wigs, Sir Richard says, make judges appear to be out of touch with the country inhabited by the litigants before them and also make remarks of the "Who is Gazza?" variety seem typical, rather than an aberration.

"The wearing of wigs allows, almost encourages, a cruel parody of the judicial process and of the judges who preside over it. They are also uncomfortable, scratchy and of questionable hygienic quality, even if they no longer provide a home for a variety of tiny animals."

Sir Richard, who was born in South Africa, makes his remarks in the Inner Temple yearbook. A keen hunting follower, he has already staged a revolt over the wearing of top hats in the hunting field. He wore one with reluctance until the early 1980s, when a friend wearing a top hat was killed while hunting.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has protested about the wearing of his own wig as Speaker of the House of Lords, complaining that it "weighs a ton".



The prototype pyramid put on show in Birmingham

# Pyramid house is a hot property

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE solar-powered pyramid of the future, announced by BP yesterday, not only generates enough power to be self-sufficient, it can light up its neighbours too.

BP believes the Solar Showcase is the way we will all live one day. The £500,000 demonstration model will even work in Port Talbot, South Wales, not known for unbroken skies.

The 1,000 sq ft building, to be constructed in the spring, is designed to show what can be achieved using the latest technology in the field. BP Solar will use the pyramid as a visitor centre at the entrance of an industrial park being created in Port Talbot.

A smaller prototype of the building was erected in Birmingham last year to impress world leaders attending the G8 summit. The new 30ft high building will have more than 170 solar panel generating enough electricity to power four conventional homes.

# Father's rural classic puts Bell in shade

## Tale of rural life 70 years ago is back in print and there are plans for a TV serialisation, reports Robin Young

MARTIN BELL, the Independent MP for Tatton, is about to be overshadowed once more by his late father, an essayist, novelist and original begetter of *The Times* crossword.

Adrian Bell's bestselling book, *Corduroy*, written in 1930 and telling how he came from the city to live and work on a small Suffolk farm, has just returned to print for the first time in 20 years.

Now, in what Martin Bell suggests might become "a sort of agricultural *Ballykissangel*", there are plans to follow the republication of the book with a television series.

*Corduroy*, Adrian Bell's account of his apprenticeship to a Suffolk farmer, was a classic in its day and exercised a spell on soldiers and airmen in wartime Britain, many of whom dreamt of turning to farming after the end of hostilities.

Last October, when *The Sunday Times*, on behalf of the Folio Society, asked its readers to name the best book on country life to complete a list of 20th-century classics, *Corduroy* won by a field's length.

A television company, DLT Entertainment, which made *Love on a Branch Line* and *As Time Goes By*, has now acquired the rights from Martin Bell's elder sister, Anthea. She is the English translator of the Asterix cartoons and, Martin Bell concedes, the "real brains" of the family.

The book is a rich mulch of rural nostalgia, sheaves and stacks and steam-powered threshing machines of the 1920s, the like of which a distant kinsman of the MP, Frank Lythgoe, an avid collector of steam engines and agriculutural bric-a-brac, still has at Lymm in Cheshire.

After his apprenticeship, in which he rose to be a farm manager, Bell succeeded in making a living off 89 acres of heavy clay at Redisham, in east Suffolk. In the meantime, just before the success of *Corduroy*, he was paid three guineas for the first crossword used in *The Times*, (printed on February 1, 1930, and repeated on the same date in 1995), though he had never solved a crossword before, let alone set one.

He went on to supplement his agricultural and literary income by compiling a further 4,520 puzzles, including the golden jubilee crossword that appeared 50 years after his initial effort.

His length of service won him a place in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the most durable crossword compiler then known, but Bell's explanation was simple. "Crossword compiling," he said, "was the ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind sitting on a tractor harrowing clods."

If *Corduroy* proves a televisual success (and the public's appetite for series such as those based on James Herriott's *All Creatures Great and Small* and H.E. Bates's *The Darling Buds of May* makes it surprising only that no one thought to snap up the rights before this), there is a rich vein to be exploited. *Corduroy* was but the first part of a top-selling trilogy, of which *Silver Ley* and *The Cherry Tree* are the later volumes.

Other books by Bell include *Apple Acre* and *The Budding Morrow*, the latter a vivid personal account of farming in wartime Britain. He also wrote a weekly country column for the *Eastern Daily Press* in Norfolk for 30 years.

Martin Bell describes his father as "very clever, but very shy", and remembers him "spending hours in his study, groaning a lot", but he adds: "Soldiers and airmen used to read *Corduroy* in the Penguin edition.

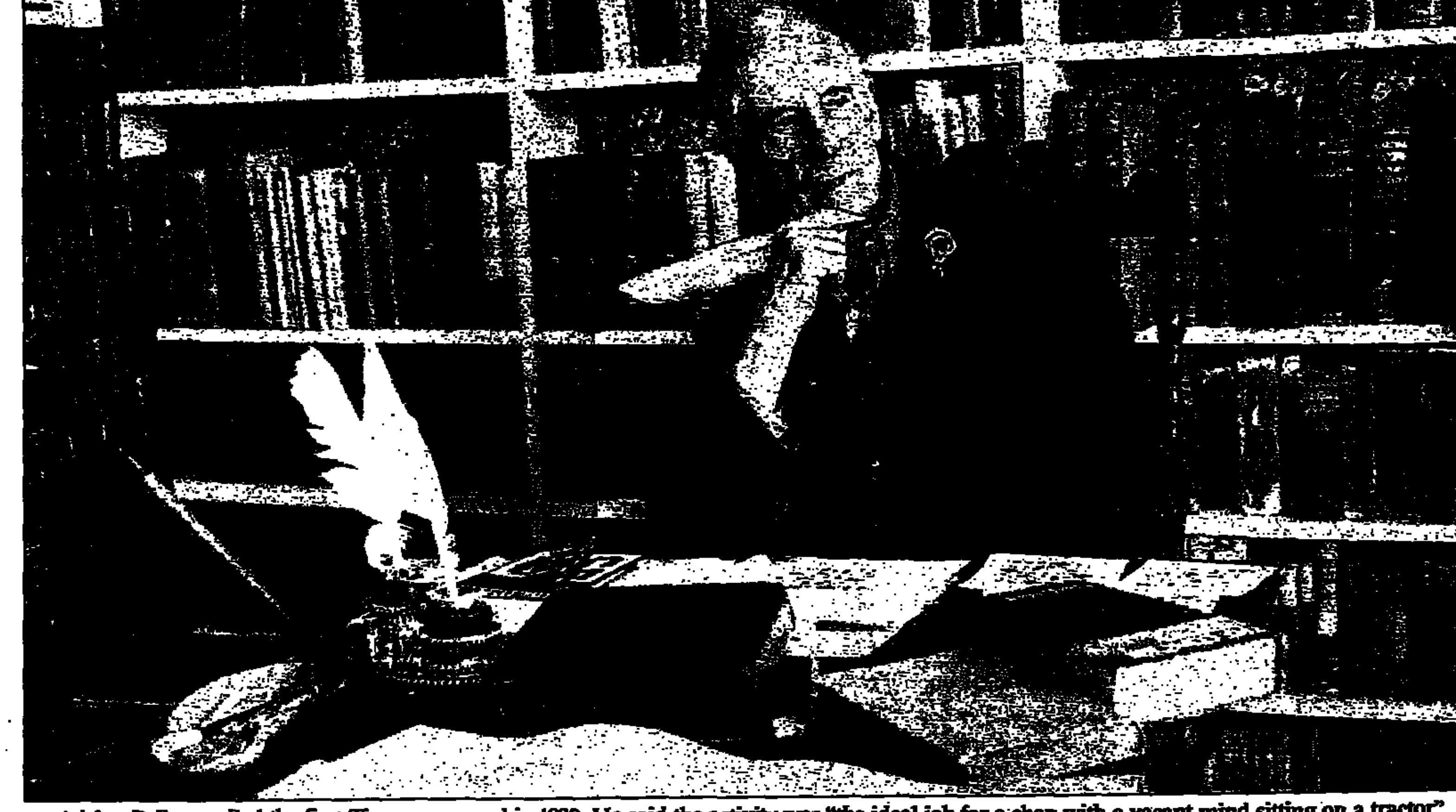
"They wrote to him from their bivouacs and tank turrets about their dreams of a farming life when the war was over. It inspired and encouraged them." His choice for the actor to portray his farmer-turned-poet father would be Colin Firth.

Adrian Bell died in 1990. His son says that, although he is sad that his father did not live to see the translationof his work to the television screen, he is relieved that he did not witness the final destruction of English agriculture as he had known it.

### TOWNIE'S FLIGHT

**"I was upon the fringe of Suffolk, a country rich in agricultural detail, missed by my untutored eye. It was but scenery to me: nor had I an inkling of what more it might become. Farming, to my mind, was as yet the townsman's glib catalogue of creatures and a symbol of escape. The true friendliness of the scene before me lay beneath ardours of which I knew nothing.**

**"I was flying from the threat of an office life. I was twenty years old, and the year was 1920."**



Adrian Bell compiled the first *Times* crossword in 1930. He said the activity was "the ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind sitting on a tractor"

## MP says he regrets pledge to retire

MARTIN BELL yesterday repeated, "with regret", his pledge to stay in parliament for only one term, leaving the once-safe Conservative seat likely to be snatched back by the Tories.

"I said publicly that I would stand for one term only and I stand by that. I regret it because I am enjoying myself," he said. "Breaking that promise would undermine whatever I can achieve in the term, because people would say, 'Look, there's another politician breaking a promise.'"

Mr Bell, a former foreign correspondent, stood for the Cheshire seat of Tatton on an anti-corruption ticket. He said yesterday that he would not endorse any candidate for the seat. One of the most hotly contested seats at the last election, it is expected to be swamped by former Tory MPs.

Among those said to be looking for a safe seat are the former ministers Michael Portillo, William Waldegrave, Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Michael Forsyth; the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten; the defeated MPs Sebastion Coe and Gyles Brandreth; and Christine Hamilton, whose husband, Neil, was displaced as the local member by Mr Bell.



NEWS IN BRIEF

## Harbour chief on oil spill charge

A harbourmaster goes on trial today, charged with negligence that led to one of Britain's worst oil pollution incidents. Captain Mark Andrews faces three charges arising from the leaking of 72,000 tonnes of crude oil from the tanker *Sea Empress*, which devastated marine and bird life along the West Wales coast.

If found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court, Captain Andrews, 44, faces an unlimited fine and up to two years in jail. Milford Haven Port Authority also faces two charges of negligence. It is accused of allowing an insufficiently trained pilot to bring the vessel into port.

The oil was spilt when the tanker hit rocks in February 1996. The pollution badly hit the local economy, and the tourism and fishing industries are still struggling to recover.

### Poison warning

A warning of the fatal risk posed by faulty fires and boilers is being delivered with fuel bills in Wales and the West Midlands, where the most deaths occur. Across Britain, 438 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 1987-96.

### Driving seat

Roy Barsley, 56, a Labour councillor banned from driving for 21 months for being twice over the drink limit, will continue to chair Nottinghamshire's police advisory committee, which backed a Christmas campaign against drink-driving.

### Refugee death

The body of a suspected illegal immigrant from Iraq has been found at Dover ferry terminal. Police believe he was a Kurdish refugee who had been holding on under a lorry. Three Iraqi Kurds have been detained by immigration officers.

### Murder charge

A man was been remanded in custody, charged with the murder of Christopher Swales, 15, of Skegness, Lincolnshire, whose body was found on a beach. Neil Walgate, 32, of Skegness, appeared before magistrates in the town.

### Forger jailed

A 25-year-old graphics student was jailed for two years for making forged £5 and £10 notes to buy heroin. Lee Dudley, of Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire, admitted having counterfeiting materials with intent at Nottingham Crown Court.

### Cotswolds USA

A ranch owner in Atlanta, Georgia, has ordered 400 tonnes of Cotswold stone — a record shipment to the United States — for a wall around his land. The stone, from a company in Northleach, Gloucestershire, is being sent next week.

## Thatcher joins a bastion of Englishness

By Alan Hamilton

TO SOME, she is the quintessential Englishwoman: the grocer's daughter turned Boadicea. To others, she stands for everything that England should not be in the touchy-feely age of new Labour. To the Royal Society of St George, Baroness Thatcher is the new vice-president.

Lady Thatcher has accepted an invitation to join the society, which has 10,000 members and is dedicated to "England and Englishness", but is "about patriotism rather than nationalism".

The society, founded in 1894 to offer support to the sons of England scattered across the Empire, now runs a charitable trust providing funds for youth and community projects to foster "duty, loyalty and service to England".

Lady Thatcher joins a line of vice-presidents with impeccably English credentials, including the Duke of Westminster, the present Duke of Wellington, Earl Nelson of Trafalgar and Merton, and Field Marshal Lord Bramall, a former Chief of the General Staff and now Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London.

William Firth, chairman of the society, said yesterday that Lady Thatcher exemplified the English trait of determination, but denied that his society was right-wing or in any way politically active.

"I am a unionist, and I dislike Little Englanders. The essence of Englishness is the ability to absorb other people and ideas into a mainstream of continuity," he said.



Lady Thatcher: helped amputee football team

The real reason that Lady Thatcher was a heroine to the society, Mr Firth disclosed, was that, when Prime Minister, she offered personal help and encouragement to the England Amputee Football Club, which the society was sponsoring at the time. When one of its players died of cancer, she wrote a particularly touching letter of condolence.

The society believes in "polite patriotism". Should it not, therefore, have offered the job to John Major, whose English vision of warm beer and village cricket was a good deal more polite than his predecessor's obsession with poll tax and there being no such thing as society?

Mind you, she did try the first out on the Scots, and said the second to an audience in Edinburgh. Trust the English to offload their dafter ideas on foreigners.

## London appoints a 'drugs czar'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A VETERAN of the Leah Betts case has been recruited by Scotland Yard to become the first anti-drugs co-ordinator for London.

Commander Andy Hayman, 39, takes control of a new directorate at the Yard as police research shows a third of suspects arrested in London have drug links. Initial figures from stations across London show that a high percentage of crimes involving shoplifting, house burglary and thefts from cars, are linked to drugs.

Mr Hayman, who will today unveil a £250,000 poster and radio advertising campaign on the links between drugs and crime, was recruited by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, from the Essex force within a few weeks of completing a senior officer's training course.

He initiated anti-drugs campaigns after the death of Leah Betts from Ecstasy in 1995. He gave evidence to a House of Lords committee looking at drugs, helped to set up an award-winning schools programme and is now working part-time on an MSc in criminology at Cambridge.

His drugs directorate, one of only two in the country, will have four senior officers working on assessing the extent of drug use and targeting dealers and markets. There were 34,713 drug convictions in London between April 1997 and April 1998.

Mr Hayman said that he planned to develop drug referral schemes so that suspects who had identifiable problems could receive treatment.

He said that he planned to scrap the traditional "talk and chalk" approach of classroom lectures and make greater use of techniques such as roadshows and pop music shows with anti-drug messages.

# Payout adds to anguish in Dunblane

**Teacher is given compensation, but bereaved families are still waiting, reports Shirley English**

A TEACHER who helped to identify dead and injured children after the Dunblane massacre has been awarded compensation for mental trauma, while some bereaved families have yet to receive a penny.

Linda Stewart, 48, a nursery teacher, has received an interim payment from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. A parent of a child who died said that he and other families were still waiting to hear about their claims.

The CICB confirmed that it has so far paid out £2.8 million in awards to 131 individuals from Dunblane, 80 for psychological trauma. Of the 300 applications made, 38 cases were rejected and 131 are still being considered, a spokesman said.

Mrs Stewart, a mother of two, has not worked since the March 1996 shootings in which 16 children and their teacher, Gwen Mayor, died.

Mrs Stewart, one of five members of staff who went on sick leave after the massacre, arrived in the gym minutes after the shooting and tended the wounded and dying children until ambulances arrived. As a former teacher of the Primary One class, she was asked by police to help to identify bodies of the victims.

Speaking to a newspaper yesterday, she said that she suffered flashbacks and nightmares and rarely got to sleep before 3am. She could not light a match because the smell reminded her of gunsmoke and was tormented by feelings of guilt that she could have done more to help.

"I will never be able to work again. Teaching was my dream job. My life has been ruined and all I want to do is turn back the clock. No amount of compensation would help to put things right," Mrs Stewart said.

"It's a dreadful thing to say, but I'm now terrified of children. We were very close to the little ones."

Yesterday the people of Dunblane were reluctant to talk about compensation, but there was an underlying sense of bitterness that Mrs Stewart's comments had put the town back in the spotlight. One person said: "It has been so quiet and calm here recently, and now this."

A bereaved father said that he was still waiting to hear whether his family would get compensation. "I have nothing against the woman receiving compensation because of what she went through: I wouldn't wish that on anyone. But many families had to identify the dead bodies of their own children and have not received any compensation."

A number of teachers who helped in the gym in the aftermath of the tragedy went back to work immediately and struggled on regardless, one source said. "She was not the only person in the gym who had to do a traumatic job. A lot of people could all talk about what happened to them, but they don't."

Edward McKeown, CICB operations manager, said: "A person who is permanently disabled by mental injury will get around £20,000. An appropriate amount will be added for loss of earnings and any care costs which are incurred. This could bring the total compensation up to half a million pounds."

After the Lockerbie disaster a number of payouts were made for psychological trauma to those who witnessed the aftermath of the tragedy. The bulk of the recipients belonged to the emergency services.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse injured while trying to protect children from a machete attack at St Luke's school in Wolverhampton, received £6,000 for her injuries.

In Dunblane, families of the dead and injured received awards from the £4.5 million Dunblane Fund and the £2 million Stirling Observer Fund set up to deal with the flood of unsolicited donations that poured into the town from around the world.

Yesterday Scotland's largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland welcomed news of Mrs Stewart's award.

Linda Stewart: "All I want to do is turn back the clock".



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Chris Burden with a prototype for the model aeroplanes that his "factory" at the Tate Gallery will produce. Visitors will be able to buy them for £5

# Suffering artist sees career take off

**Man who had himself shot in the name of art plans to litter Tate Gallery with 22,000 model aircraft, reports Dalya Alberge**

FOR Chris Burden, art is about taking risks. In the cause of art, he has asked a friend to shoot him; he has given himself electric shocks and he has languished in a jammed lift for four days.

But when the American mounts the first British exhibition of his 30-year career, for once he will not be in personal danger. Eyebrows, however, will still be raised.

The Tate Gallery in London is to exhibit a "factory" installation that will manufacture model planes from balsa wood, tissue paper and plastic and launch one every two minutes. Some 22,000 planes, with 12in wingspans, are expected to be launched into the Duveen Galleries. When they land, visitors can buy them for £5.

The artist hopes the public will discard crashed models across London. "Hopefully, they will fly them right away and create a lot of litter around the Tate. It will be a signpost for what's going on inside."

Burden says of the work, *When Robots Rule: The Two-Minute Airplane Factory*: "It's a functioning model of industrial capitalism. You have the factory, the marketing of the airplanes, the production of the airplanes. Are we overproducing, underproducing? Can we sell enough? Almost everything we handle or touch was made in a factory, yet we have no idea of how it happens. This is a visual factory, in the sense that you get to see the method of production."

The Tate describes the work, on show from March 2, as "entertaining, ingenious and provocative". Through toys, Burden is aiming to demystify 20th-century science.

The artist, who was born in 1946 in Boston, made his name with performance art of a distinctly sadomasochistic nature. In 1971 as a student at the University of California, he shut himself in a locker measuring 2ft by 3ft for five days, drinking water from a bottle in the locker above him and urinating into one below. Also that year he subjected himself to electric shocks in a work called *Doorway to Heaven*: he grasped live wires in each hand and pushed them into his chest. Next came *Back to You*, which involved having drawing-pins pushed into his body while sitting shirtless in a lift.

In *Deadman*, he covered himself with a tarpaulin and lay on a Los Angeles motorway — only to be arrested for causing a false emergency to be reported. By 1974 he was lying on the back of a Volkswagen and having nails driven through his palms.

Burden denies he is a mere stuntman and some works have contained overt political comment. In his installation *The Reason for the Neutron Bomb, 1979*, 50,000 coins, each with a matchstick glued to it, were meant to represent the number of tanks controlled by the Soviet Union.

But the critics know him best for the *Shoot* incident of 1973, in which he received a nasty bullet wound when he stood against a gallery wall and was shot by a friend with a rifle. He still has a scar on his arm.

While the public may have been appalled, reviewers were impressed. One wrote: "Burden's early performances were essentially private acts, but they dealt with taboos that struck a vulnerable chord in the consciousness of witnesses and in the imaginations of people who have only heard verbal accounts of Burden's actions." Another suggested that "actual experience — getting himself shot in the arm, for instance, is a primal answer to the problem of metaphor in art".

Yesterday Burden, who now lives in Los Angeles, said of *Shoot*: "It was like a scientific experiment. I was trying to examine what it feels like to be shot. It's about controlling fate, trying to manage the unmanageable and the unthinkable. It's about turning towards the dragon, as opposed to turning your back on it." He added: "It was horrific to look at my arm and see a smoking hole."

Burden says his work has been inspired by artists such as Duchamp and Picasso and, in that sense, is "very traditional". With the aircraft factory, it has also become rather safer.

# Champagne reopening for tin mine

MINERS from around the world have been applying for jobs at a tin mine that reopened yesterday ten months after it closed with the loss of 300 jobs.

The new owner of the 2,000ft South Crofty pit near Redruth, Cornwall, said he had received job applications from as far afield as Brazil and South Africa. Wilf Hughes said response from miners wanting to work at the pit had been "absolutely amazing".

Mr Hughes, a Welsh mining entrepreneur, led a march of local people to the mine, where there was a champagne celebration for the revival of Europe's last tin pit. He bought the mine in a £625,000 deal with David Giddings, South Crofty's managing director and major shareholder.

Mark Kaczmarek, a former miner and union shop steward, said at the pit gates that it was an emotional day for Cornish people. However, before work can start, the flooded areas of the mine will have to be pumped out. Since being closed, the mine has flooded to a depth of 800ft and it is estimated that it will cost about £1 million to pump out.



# Travel the world next year – by racing yacht

By Elizabeth Judge

ADVENTURERS of all sorts were challenged by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston yesterday to compete next year in the world's longest ocean race.

Sir Robin, chairman of Clipper Ventures and race director of *The Times* Clipper 2000 round-the-world contest, is looking for crews for up to 12 yachts to take part in the 36,000-mile event. Speaking at the London International Boat Show, he confirmed that the race would start and finish in Portsmouth, leaving next October.

The yachts will cross the Atlantic three times and also cross the Pacific and Indian Oceans and race through the East and South China Seas, returning in August 2001. They will visit Cuba, Shanghai and the Galapagos Islands, and spend New Year's Eve heading for Hawaii.

Sir Robin said the 14-strong crews would be led by professional skippers. Applicants can join them for one or more of the six legs of the race.

He said that many people wanted something different to do with their lives "and sailing around the world is seen as one of the great things to do. There is a certain danger but that is what gives you a sense of achievement.

"What is going to be so exciting is that it will give people a chance to get behind their teams and their city as they compete against their rival."

Towns and cities are being asked to sponsor a participating boat. They will pay £100,000 to put their names on the side of one of the 60ft clippers. It is hoped that each of the crew on the yacht will be from that town. The crew's families and friends will be able to follow their progress in *The Times* and on a website.

Each leg will take between five days and 3½ weeks and the winner of *The Times* Trophy will be decided according to the accumulated points.

Applicants, who must be aged at least 18, will have to raise between £6,000 and £23,500, depending upon how many legs they choose to compete in. About 500 people are being sought.

The competitors, to be selected by Clipper Ventures, will not have to be experienced sailors as everyone will be given rigorous training.

The round-the-world race takes place every two years; this is the first to be sponsored by *The Times*. The currrent Clipper 1998 race is nearing the end of the second leg.

Colin de Mowbray, the project manager, said: "This race is open to people from every walk of life. One competitor in the last race sold her horse and remortgaged her house so that she could take part."

Representatives from towns and cities considering sponsoring a yacht are at the boat show this week for briefings. Patrick Sheriff, marketing director of Times Newspapers, said that the race offered "a great promotional opportunity for the cities, but also a compelling sporting platform from which to take on their rivals".

☐ For information on *The Times* Clipper 2000, telephone 01234 711550 or see the website http://www.clipper-ventures.com



# Minder 'shook child for crying'

A FIVE-MONTH-OLD baby was left with permanent brain damage after being deliberately shaken by a childminder in a "flash of anger", a court was told yesterday.

Shirley Clemons caused the baby girl, who cannot be identified, a "devastating" brain injury, Coventry Crown Court was told.

Julia Macur, for the prosecution, alleged that Mrs Clemons, 48, wanted to hurt the baby because she was crying or being disruptive while in her care last March.

The injured child — who now suffers from a form of cerebral palsy, epilepsy and has impaired hearing and sight — was taken to hospital after Mrs Clemons dialled 999.

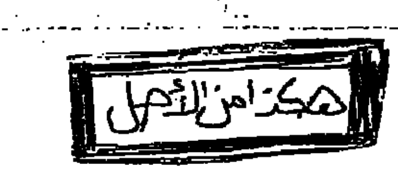
Miss Macur said: "Mrs Clemons injured [the baby] most probably in a flash of anger, but nevertheless intended to do her really serious bodily harm." She added that the baby would "never be a normal child".

The jury was told that Mrs Clemons, described as a woman of good character with many years' experience as a childminder, claimed that she shook the child to resuscitate her after she stopped breathing.

Miss Macur said: "This was a momentary lapse; this was rage, and in that rage Mrs Clemons's qualifications as a good and careful childminder went out of the window."

Mrs Clemons, of Coventry, denies causing grievous bodily harm with intent and a charge of child cruelty. The trial continues.





# The Chancellor doth protest too much, methinks

In the end, everything that matters in this Government comes back to Gordon Brown. His Edinburgh speech was the most coherent statement of what Downing Street is eager not to call a relaunch. despite this week's reheating of several familiar initiatives and the desperate attempt to address public worries about the NHS. The speech was intriguing both for what Mr Brown said, and what he did not say.

Reflecting the current febrile mood, Mr Brown felt it necessary to pay an extravagant tribute to Tony Blair in terms that would not have shamed Stalin's Politburo — his "historic achievement", his "leadership", "measure of Tony Blair's success", "it is to his credit". The Chancellor protests too much. Mr Blair and he agree on most policies, far more than John Major did with either Norman Lamont or Kenneth Clarke. The problem has been rather mood music. and the jarrying notes of some acolytes.

Mr Brown remains the unrivalled ideologist of new Labour, even if his rhetoric sometimes runs away with itself in elaborate contrasts. His theme was the changed role of government, as expander of individual opportunity. In particular, he foreshadowed new initiatives in his spring Budget: on competition policy to tackle restrictive practices and opening up industries to new entrants; on making the tax system work better to encourage research and development, science and innovation and entrepreneurship; on tackling the employment needs of men aged over 55 and on expanding lifelong education.

All this is, of course, micro-economic. Having made the Bank of England responsible for setting interest rates and set a fiscal framework for the next three years, Mr Brown believes that his role is now primarily to improve the structure of the economy, the supply side.

**Peter RIDDELL**
**ON POLITICS**

Strangely for the first speech of the year by a Chancellor of the Exchequer, he did not mention the macro-economic outlook. He did not discuss whether he now thinks the downturn this year is likely to be deeper, and the recovery next year slower, than he forecast in early November. The latter is crucial to the sustainability of his public spending plans.

Mr Brown also maintained his curious silence on the euro. For someone who sees no objection in principle to sterling's entry, he has been oddly reticent so far this year on the launch of the euro. It was a mistake that no British minister attended the official launch on December 31. The Treasury explanation that no "substantive issues affecting Britain" were being discussed was uncomfortably reminiscent of the damagingly dismissive Whitehall attitude of the 1950s towards early European integration. Mr Brown needs to step up public contacts with other European finance ministers if he wants to smooth the path towards British participation in monetary union in two or three years.

His political aim yesterday was to answer criticisms that new Labour has nothing to do with principle, "that politics is a matter only of personalities rather than policies, that style can substitute for substance and that what separates parties is far less than what unites them".

This week's announcements and speeches should knock on the head the idea that new Labour is just presentational froth. But such activity does not answer the question of whether this model of government activism and central regulation will produce improved public services without having higher taxes. The Blair Government is not about to come apart. The Tories will get nowhere suggesting it is and they should narrow the focus of their attacks.

Far more important is whether the Government can deliver on the demanding goals that Mr Brown has set out.

# Brown rallies to Blair's side

## Fightback begins with fulsome praise of party leader, write **Jill Sherman** and **Jason Allardyce**

GORDON BROWN yesterday mounted a strong defence of new Labour and heaped praise on Tony Blair in a bid to reassure the public that there was no rift between them.

The Chancellor, in his first public comments since the resignations of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson and Charlie Whelan, his press aide, made clear that he fully supported the Prime Minister's goal to modernise and transform the party.

"As Tony Blair recognised only a transformed party willing to think anew can transform the country for a new era," he said. "His historic achievement is to harness enduring British values, Labour values, to the challenges of the new economy and by breaking with past programmes, develop a new direction of the coming decade — an economy that is strong and a society that is just."

The Chancellor, who is said to have been desolate over Mr Whelan's departure, went out of his way to endorse new Labour as he led a Cabinet fightback to get the Government back on track.

Mr Whelan was absent from the the business breakfast in Scotland addressed by Mr Brown and was believed to be working at the Treasury office in London. Mr Brown was accompanied only by Sue Nye, his personal assistant, and his speech was written in part by Douglas Alexander, his adviser and MP for Paisley.

Mr Brown scotched reports that he was forging a closer alliance with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, by making clear that he did not support greater intervention in industry.

He underlined that the new Labour label had sometimes been misinterpreted by the party and the public to be more about style than substance. In what was seen as a slight dig at those who are too enthusiastic about cosying up to the Liberal Democrats, he also hinted that there were big policy differences between them.

"All of us in new Labour reject the view that politics has nothing to do with principle; that ideas are less important than unprincipled pragmatism, that politics is a matter only of personalities rather than policies, that style can substitute for substance, and that what separates parties is far less that what unites them."

He announced that the New Deal would be extended to the over-50s and signalled that there would be tax measures in the Budget to help research and development and small businesses.

He said: "Around one third of men between 50 and 65 have no jobs; many have been denied chances to get jobs after being made redundant. For the over-55s it is 40 per cent so it is time to give special attention to their employment needs and the next Budget will." Already the New Deal is helping 180,000 young people and is being extended this year to help more of the long-term unemployed and disabled.

He also indicated that the Budget would include plans for greater competition and new enterprise. "In particular we need to tackle restrictive practices and open up competition to new entrants and this we will continue to do." It would also include measures to encourage innovation and science to ensure that technological and commercial opportunities could be taken.

Michael Gove, page 16
Leading article, page 17

MIKE WILKINSON



Gordon Brown addressing the meeting in Edinburgh yesterday: he said new Labour had been misinterpreted to be more about style than substance

# Secret talks may produce new laws on polls

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW rules governing the way referendums are held could become law this year after secret talks between the Tories and the Government.

Tory MPs will today unveil plans to use a Private Member's Bill to introduce a basic code of conduct for future polls. The Referendums Bill will be brought forward by Andrew Robathan, Tory MP for Blaby, who came fourth in the ballot of MPs seeking to introduce their own legislation this session.

Oliver Letwin, a Tory constitutional spokesman, has been holding talks with George Howarth, the junior Home Office Minister, to seek cross-party agreement on the way forward. The Tories claim to have secured broad agreement on several key issues, including that the two opposing sides in a referendum have equal access to public funds and to television airtime. Discussions are also continuing about how rules could be drawn up to prevent referendum questions being loaded.

No consensus has been reached on whether there should be a cap on spending.

Home Office sources said that although the Government was happy to help and provide advice, no formal agreement had yet been reached on the text of any Bill. They added that the Government was planning to publish its own draft Bill this summer to implement the recommendations about referendums made by the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life.

"We are not keen on a piecemeal approach towards the issue," one official said. "We are happy to help out but are likely to take a neutral position towards any Bill the Tories might introduce."

# EU farm reform will cut food bills

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE reform of European Union farm subsidies would cut annual household food bills by £18 a person, it was claimed yesterday. Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, told a government-convened conference in London that the reforms, due to be adopted in late March, would also be good for taxpayers and farmers.

"The present structures actually build in the creation of surpluses for some products," he told the food and farming industries, consumer groups and environmentalists. Mr Brown said he would be sending a questionnaire to farmers seeking views on the proposals and the Government's response. "I want everyone involved in the industry to have their chance to comment on the way in which the common agricultural policy reform should be implemented in this country," he said.

At present, British farmers receive about £3 billion in EU subsidies a year. The ministry estimates that this costs about £3 per person per week in higher food prices and £1 per person per week in extra taxes. The proposed reforms would cut guaranteed prices for beef, cereals and milk by up to 30 per cent. Farmers would be partly compensated by an increase in cash payments linked to farm size.



Brown: said farmers will be asked for their views

# US jets fire on Iraqi missiles

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AMERICAN warplanes fired on Iraqi missile batteries yesterday in two attacks as tension escalated with a defiant Baghdad.

In one incident, two US F15E strike aircraft attacked a surface-to-air missile base near Mosul. In another, an F16 fighter fired a High Speed Anti-Radiation (Harm) missile. Both incidents apparently occurred after the aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi radar during routine patrols of the northern no-fly zone.

After days of menacing invective from Baghdad, Kuwait has placed part of its military on full alert. Iraq has accused the emirate, along with Saudi Arabia, of betrayal for allowing British and US airstrikes from their territory and demanded compensation.

The Kuwaiti decision was announced after an emergency meeting of the Defence Council, which also discussed plans to call up reservists. The move was seen as symbolic, given Kuwait's reliance on US muscle for its protection. "Kuwait is a small country and we cannot take any risks," an army spokesman said.

It was reported by a Kuwaiti newspaper that 25 "Arabs" had been arrested carrying anti-government leaflets calling for a revolution. They confessed to plotting against Kuwait for Iraq, the paper said.

The US planes returned safely to their base in Turkey. The Pentagon said it had no immediate information on the damage to the Iraqi sites.

US officials reported that Iraq had moved new air defence units into the no-fly zones and Washington had doubled to 16 the number of planes on patrol. They said that American and British planes would continue to monitor the no-fly zones despite Iraqi opposition to the patrols.

"The coalition will continue to enforce the no-fly zones vigorously. These provocations are a reminder of the threat that Saddam poses to the region and the need for vigilance in containing that threat," a National Security Council spokesman said.

The attacks were the latest in a series of clashes in the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. Last Thursday, an F16 fired at another missile battery, and two days earlier four US jets shot at, but missed, Iraqi planes that had breached the flight ban.

Iraq's defiance forms part of a broader challenge to the US and Britain — and their Arab allies — since the two powers launched Operation Desert Fox last month.

> 'Saddam is raising the stakes to keep Iraq on the international agenda'

Security at Western embassies and American military facilities in Kuwait has been intensified, while Washington said it would act militarily if Iraq retaliated against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia for last month's raids.

However, Iraq's capacity to pose a military threat to Kuwait is questionable, given its inability to provide air cover and the Anglo-American firepower arrayed against its troops. "He's raising the stakes to keep Iraq on the international agenda," said an Arab envoy in the Gulf, referring to President Saddam Hussein. "Threatening Kuwait does that, but it also unites countries against him."

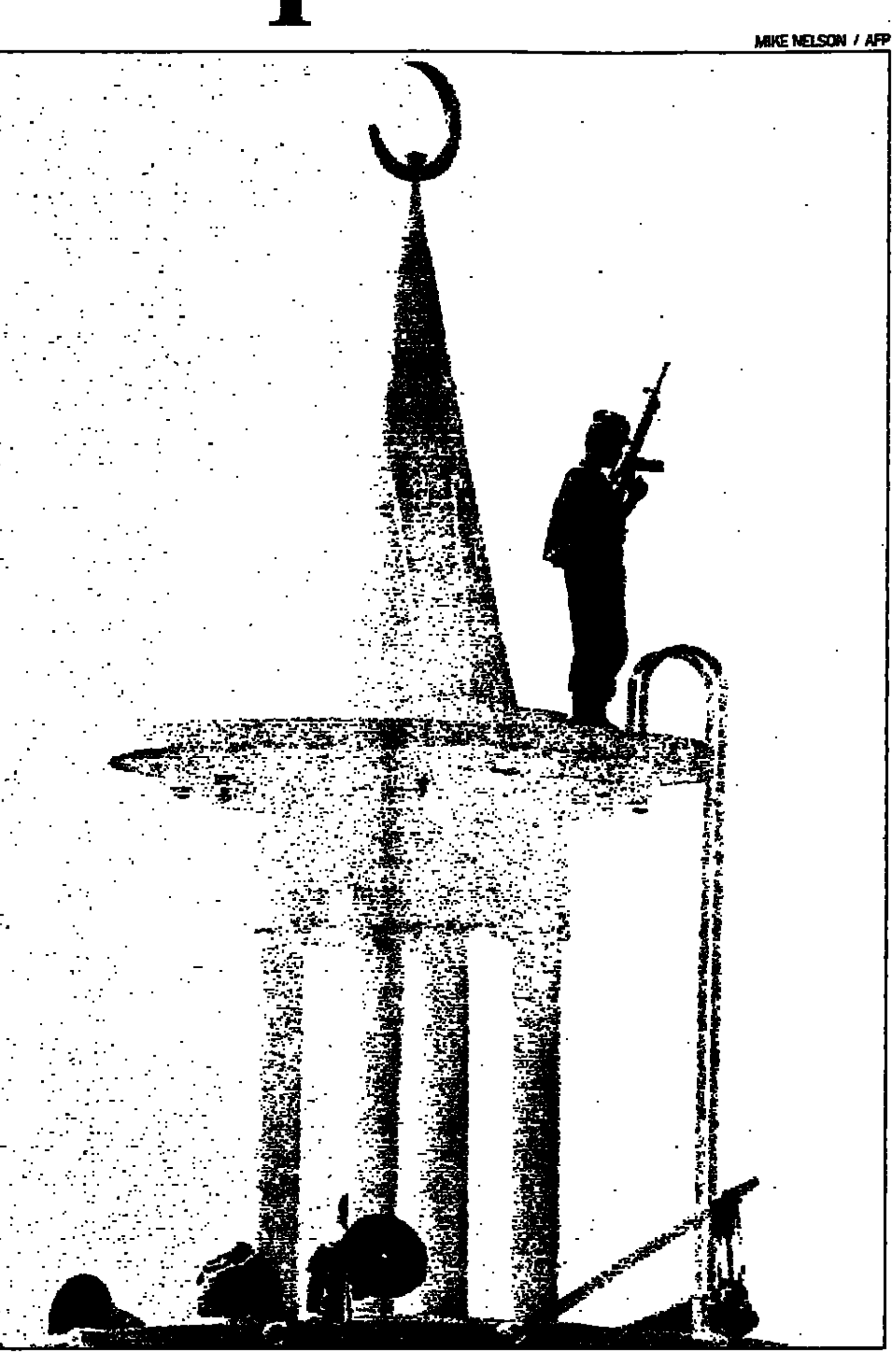
While Operation Desert Fox appears only to have emboldened the Iraqi leader, his actions can also be viewed as a sign of frustration as he attempts to demonstrate his ability to continue to seize the initiative. Washington said he had lost key military aides in the airstrikes, and there have been reports of purges and executions of suspect officers. Defections have also continued on an almost daily basis. "Something happened in southern Iraq during Desert Fox. Whether it was an attempted coup or not is not yet clear," an Iraqi source said.

Saddam appears to believe that threats against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will persuade them not to allow America and Britain to use bases on their territory for future airstrikes, which many in Baghdad believe could come when the Muslim holy month of Ramadan ends later this month.

However, any perceived Iraqi threat to Kuwait could backfire on Saddam by alienating France, Russia and China, its sympathisers on the United Nations Security Council. Washington could also use it to reinforce the no-fly zone in southern Iraq with a no-drive zone. Iraqi opposition groups have long called for a ban on Saddam's tanks in the restive, Shia-dominated south.

Saudi Arabia, which called on Sunday for Saddam's overthrow, unveiled an initiative to relax the crippling UN embargo on Iraq by allowing the imports of everything but military equipment and material. The offer, to be discussed by minister from the Gulf Co-operation Council later this month, was dismissed by Iraq as "insincere".

MIKE NELSON / AFP



A soldier stands guard on a mosque minaret in Kuwait City after the military alert

The Pope reads his "state of the world" address

# Pope condemns airstrikes as solving nothing

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TWO weeks before he is due to meet an embattled President Clinton, the Pope yesterday rebuked the United States and Britain for their bombing raids on Iraq last month, saying the attacks had solved nothing. If anything, they had made matters worse.

Giving his annual "state of the world" address to diplomats, the Pope said that war "does not solve problems, it only complicates them, and leaves the civilian population to bear the tragic consequences".

He did not single out the US or Britain by name. But he said: "International law cannot be the law of the strongest, or of a simple majority of states, or even of an international organisation ... It must be a law which conforms to the principles of natural and moral law, which are always binding on parties in conflict and the various issues in dispute."

The Pope, 78, sets off for Mexico on January 22 and is scheduled to make a stopover in St Louis, Missouri, four days later to meet Mr Clinton. Yesterday he appeared preoccupied with tensions in the Middle East — "a region in which our religious traditions are rooted".

The Pope deplored the hiatus in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, noting that "it is not possible to keep people indefinitely between war and peace without the risk of dangerously increasing tension and violence".

He said it would be unwise to delay tackling the status of Jerusalem any further. Only "honest dialogue, a real concern for the welfare of people and respect for the international order" could bring lasting solutions to a region where Islam, Judaism and Christianity all had their roots.

In a wide-ranging speech in French he called for peace in the Balkans, urging the Serbs and ethnic Albanians of Kosovo to "meet round a table to defuse without delay the armed suspicion which paralyses and kills". He expressed concern about instability in Africa, noting that 17 of its 53 nation states were involved in conflicts.

# Kibbutz row rocks 'Jesus boat' plan for Vatican display

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PLANS to move a famous relic known as the "Jesus boat" from the Sea of Galilee in Israel to the Vatican for a millennium exhibition has sparked a fierce row among Israelis.

Members of the kibbutz where the 2,000-year-old vessel — missing its bow, stern and sides — was discovered in 1986 and is now displayed in a special preservation pool, yesterday claimed that the move would wreck the artefact and the collective farm's lucrative tourism business.

Israel's Education Ministry and a senior member of the Knesset joined the growing chorus of protests, demanding that the Antiquities Authority, which has been negotiating the exhibition with the Vatican for the past three years, scrap its plans.

"It is an incredible and wrong decision," said Avi Yehezkel, chairman of the Knesset sub-commitee on tourism. "It will hurt tourism to Israel and it will damage the boat itself."

Experts believe that the boat was probably used during the Roman period to ferry supplies along the inland Sea of Galilee, where the Scriptures say that Jesus walked on the water. Only a shell, about 13 ft long and 6½ ft wide remains of the boat, which has been dated to the 1st Century, but never directly linked to Jesus. Archaeologists believe that the design is the same as boats used in the Mediterraneanaround the time of the New Testament.

Defending the decision to move the boat, Amir Drori, head of the Antiquities Authority, maintained that an international group of restoration experts had determined that no real harm would come to the vessel.

He said that it would return to the Holy Land in time for an expected summer influx of millennium pilgrims. "Until now, no more than 70,000 pilgrims a year have come to see the boat," he argued. If it was exhibited for three months in the hall where the Pope receives pilgrims, it could be seen by millions. "Afterwards every pilgrim who comes to Israel will see the permanent exhibition from April 2000 until the end of time," Mr Drori said.

# Guardians of the lost Ark keep the faith

**David Orr in ancient Axum investigates a biblical conundrum**

FOR nearly 3,000 years, as fans of Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* might tell you, people have been searching for the lost Ark of the Covenant.

In Ethiopia, however, the search for the legendary chest containing the Ten Commandments never began. For the Ethiopians believe that the Holy Ark has been been with them all along, or at least since it was removed from Jerusalem hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

In mid-January the faithful of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church will gather for their most important festival, Timkat, which commemorates the baptism of Christ. Nowhere will the festival be celebrated with greater ceremony than in Axum, the oldest and most sacred of Ethiopian towns. It is here that Ethiopians believe the Ark is held.

On the eve of Timkat and on Timkat itself, January 19, the Ark will be displayed to the faithful of Axum. Of course, it will not be the real Ark, which is considered too powerful for humans to behold. Ethiopia's most treasured relic never leaves the chapel where it is guarded night and day.

Instead, a *tabot* or symbolic representation will be used. Here in Axum, and all over Ethiopia, *tabots* wrapped in brocade will be paraded amid great rejoicing, singing and dancing. According to legend, the stone tablets on which God inscribed the law were placed in the Ark by Moses. Its power helped the Israelities to defeat their enemies and they carried it with them to the Promised Land. The Ark was installed in a temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon. Then it suddenly disappeared.

No one knows why but after the time of Solomon (970-931 BC), the Ark is almost never mentioned in the Old Testament. The Ethiopians claim to have the answer to the riddle.

The venerated relic is kept in a chapel beside the church of St Mary of Zion. I was taken there by Deacon Fiseha Asfaw whotold me the story of the Ark. This accorded with the main points of the legend as I had heard it but also varied from it in parts. As he was telling it, my guide from the National Tourist Office more than once whispered: "That bit is not true."

A thousand years before the birth of Christ — so ran the deacon's account — the Queen of Sheba travelled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem where she conceived a child by King Solomon. That child was Menelik and as a young man he, too, travelled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem. He stayed there for some years with his father. When he left, he took with him the Ark of the Covenant. Solomon apparently accepted that its removal had been sanctioned by God.

The Ark was brought to Ethiopia, said the deacon, and before the birth of Christ installed in a temple near Axum. During the reign of the late Emperor Haile Selassie it was placed in the new chapel before which the deacon and I now stood.

Inside, a door, draped with a cloth, is flanked by two tall windows with turquoise frames. The edifice is surmounted by a turquoise dome. Inside a priest stands guard inside a fence.

"Aba Teklemariam has been looking after the Ark for nearly four years and he is the only one allowed to see it," the deacon said. "The former guardian was rebuked by the Ark because God was displeased with him. Many times I asked what had happened but he would not tell me."

The deacon said he had himself witnessed the Ark's power. One of the previous guardians, he said, had been urged by a former patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to show him the Ark.

"From his nose the patriarch discharged blood," said the deacon. "He came a second time and again he tried to persuade the guardian to show him the Ark. The guardian hesitated and he, too, was punished by the angels. Blood came from his nose. He was sick and he died some months afterwards. After suffering many years, the patriarch also died."

I asked Aba Gabregiorgis, guardian of the church's treasury, if he was worried about a border dispute with Eritrea again erupting into war. "We have the power of the Ark on our side and God will protect the Ark and Ethiopia," he said.



Worshippers carrying the Ark of the Covenant in this illustration by Jean Fouquet (circa 1425-80)



Bligh and his crew of loyal seamen being cast adrift from the *Bounty* by Fletcher Christian and the mutineers

# Cannon of Bligh's mutineers is raised from wreck of Bounty

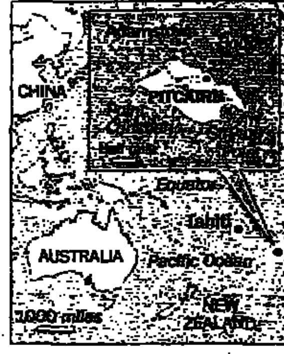
**Australians uncover another secret from an enduring seafaring saga, writes Roger Maynard in Sydney**

AN AUSTRALIAN team of marine archaeologists was yesterday celebrating the retrieval of one of the cannon from the wreck of *HMS Bounty*, at its final resting place off Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific.

The expedition, from James Cook University in Townsville, was assisted by residents of the island in building an intricate air-powered lifting device to raise the cannon.

They used the machine to extricate the 1,764lb cannon from 200 years of marine growth, Nigel Erskine, the team leader, announced from the smallest remaining British overseas territory. He said the operation was achieved under complex and demanding sea conditions in Pitcairn's Bounty Bay. The expedition, which began in September, was designed to shed fresh light on one of history's most enduring seafaring sagas. The wreck of *HMS Bounty*, which carried Fletcher Christian and his mutineers to Pitcairn in 1789 so that they could avoid being recaptured by the British, has been slowly eroded by the Pacific surf, but part of the timber and many of the vessel's artefects lie buried in sand.

One of the mutineers, apparently terrified that the Royal Navy would find them, set fire to the *Bounty*, allowing the crew to stay undetected on the island until 1808. The fire is well-documented, but may well have been against Christian's orders. The Australian researchers are hoping to find evidence of personal possessions on the wreck, which would suggest that the blaze was quick and surprised the rest of the crew. So far the team has retrieved rigging, hull timbers, cannon balls and grapeshot.




The Australians have also excavated the original house of John Adams, who was found by a whaling vessel in 1808. He kept no written records and gave differing accounts of his time there to visiting sailors.

Christian and the seven men, who led the mutiny against Captain William Bligh had sailed the *Bounty* from Tahiti to escape British Admiralty justice.

Apart from Adams, they all died within a few years. Polynesians murdered five of them. The British Admiralty sent the *HMS Pandora* to capture the mutineers but Christian and his band hiding on Pitcairn were never found by the *Pandora's* crew.

Mr Erskine, a postgraduate student at James Cook University, is keen to know how such a motley crew of subversives mixed with Polynesians and created such an extraordinary society.

**NET LINKS**

www.library.puc.edu/pitcairn/ — the Pitcairn Islands Study Centre

# Russians lured by promise of US servitude

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

DISENCHANTED with the worsening economic situation in Russia, many of the country's newly unemployed are fleeing to America to work as servants for rich expatriate Russians.

Lured by newspaper advertisements promising well-paid work abroad, hundreds of highly qualified people have parted with the hefty fee demanded by the illegal agencies and have accepted jobs as housekeepers, nannies and gardeners thousands of miles from home.

Wealthy Russians who have established themselves in America are notoriously loath to employ the Filipino staff favoured by their US counterparts, according to *Segodnya* newspaper. They are also keen for their children to be cared for by Russian speakers. Although the agencies take a £70 joining fee and the first four weeks' wages, the work, at around £150 a week plus bed and board, is far more lucrative than anything available at home, where the average wage is less than £50 a month.

"I have two children and my husband can't find work," says Olga Tarasov, who has just signed up with an agency that she hopes will find her domestic work not too far from New York. "My cousin is a nanny for a Russian family in New York and the agency promised me I wouldn't have problems getting a visa if I was leaving my children behind."

*Segodnya* cited the case of woman identified only as Irina who earned thousands of dollars working as a housekeeper for a Russian-American family and returned to Russia to start her own employment agency. The newspaper described Irina's light workload and heavy pay packet with awe. It said the family she served always ate ready-made food that needed only to be heated up and that they owned so many hi-tech domestic appliances that Irina barely had to exert herself at all.

# China rights talks doomed, dissident says

Beijing: A pioneer of China's democracy struggle said yesterday he saw little hope of progress in Chinese-American talks on human rights because for the Beijing leadership, 1999 was "a special year" in terms of political symbolism (James Pringle writes). The talks resumed in Washington yesterday in a gloomy mood after a five-year hiatus and in the middle of a political crackdown in China.

"It's the tenth anniversary of Tiananmen suppression, the twentieth anniversary of Democracy Wall and the fiftieth anniversary of the Communists coming to power," said Ren Wanding, 53, a veteran dissident who is also connected to the formation of a new democratic party that Beijing views as a challenge to the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

Mr Ren said that the Chinese economy was depressed and millions of workers were being laid off. "The more difficult the economic situation is, the more harshly they will treat dissidents."

China broke off the talks in mid-1994, after American human rights officials met the dissident, Wei Jingsheng, during a visit to Beijing. Mr Wei is now an exile in America.

President Jiang Zemin agreed to resume the dialogue during his summit with President Clinton last year, but has now pledged to nip dissent in the bud.





Myles Tierney, 34, an AP television cameraman killed on Sunday by rebels in Freetown, with locals last year

# New assault on Freetown rebels

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIERCE fighting flared up again in Freetown yesterday as Nigerian-led intervention forces launched a counter-attack to drive rebels from the port and eastern part of Sierra Leone's capital.

The foreign ministers of Togo and the Ivory Coast arrived to begin intensive efforts to secure a ceasefire. Arriving at Lungi airport, they were expected to meet President Kabbah, who has taken shelter at the airport, and Foday Sankoh, the rebel leader who was sentenced to death for treason last October.

With food running short and water and electricity cut off, residents in the battle zone cowered in their homes, fearful of the marauding rebels who seized a number of civilian hostages to use as human shields after looting and burning their houses.

Reporters and troops reported many bodies still lying in the streets. The Ecomog pro-government troops, reinforced by about 500 Nigerians at the weekend, pushed into the eastern part of Freetown and cleared rebels from the seat of government. Helicopters and fighter jets flew sorties from the airport, strafing and bombing rebel strongholds.

General Timothy Shelpidi, commanding the West African forces, said his men were pushing southeast towards the eastern suburbs of the capital. He said the rebels would be driven from the capital in the next few days. "We are very confident about the situation in Freetown."

The fighting has raised questions in Nigeria, where newspapers have called for the troops' return. But the Defence Ministry said it was committed to the operation and would not abandon President Kabbah. Yesterday Nigeria held a meeting of regional foreign ministers to discuss the fighting, which some commentators said could leave Sierra Leone without a government and racked by the same anarchy that grips Somalia.



هكذا من الإهمال

# Make or break for democracy as MEPs challenge Commission

**Parliament's censure vote may backfire, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels**

Scenting blood, many MEPs see this week's clash between the European Commission and Parliament as a coming-of-age for the EU's only directly-elected institution. But a bungled outcome could delay the assembly's drive for legitimacy.

"What we are seeing is the emergence of real parliamentary democracy at the European level," said David Martin, a Labour MEP and one of the assembly's vice-presidents, as MEPs prepared to cast their verdict on the fate of Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, and his 19 Commissioners.

However, for the 626-member assembly, often maligned as the "mother-in-law" of parliaments, the duel with the executive risks gilding its image as an undisciplined talking-shop that fails to offer a coherent input to the EU's "government". This could rebound on sitting MEPs in June's Europe-wide elections and undermine the assembly's effort to expand its powers and narrow the EU's "democratic deficit".

"We have a bad record for messing things up and there's a danger that we will make fools of ourselves by the end of the week," said a French Socialist MEP.

Since 1991, when the Maastricht treaty widened the Parliament's limited powers, the Euro-assembly has marched its troops up the hill several times to face the Commission and governments, only to shuffle away from battle. Its onslaught two years ago against the Commission over its handling of Britain's BSE crisis came to nothing.

Thursday's censure vote over Commission mismanagement, although far more serious, has the ingredients for collapse through party infighting and national interest.

The fight over the Commission has battle-lines that cut across the two main political blocs. The dominant Socialist group, led by Pauline Green, a Labour MEP, is supposed to back the Commission, but many of its large German contingent are threatening to rebel.

The centre-right European People's Party, the other large group, which includes the Tories, is also in disarray. Wilfried Martens, its Belgian leader, opposes the "nuclear" option of censure, which would oust the whole Commission.

However, many of the German Christian Democrats, with an eye to the forthcoming elections, are on the warpath against the Commission. The British Conservatives are flinching from censure but have backed an alternative scheme, launched by the Liberals, to try to pick off individual Commissioners by calling separate votes of no-confidence. The smaller Green bloc and the handful of right-wing anti-Maastricht MEPs, want all-out censure. The likely outcome will be a deal in which the two main blocs hold their fire in return for concessions from Mr Santer to open the Commission to closer parliamentary scrutiny.

An obstacle to the Parliament's emergence as a real force is the failure of EU governments to fix its location. The heavy travel burden of MEPs is compounded by the bizarre practice in which their whole institution shuttles once a month between Brussels and Strasbourg, 400 miles apart. The Parliament has also ensured its continuing disrepute by failing to curb its own shady habits, notably its taste for lavish, unaccounted expenses.

The move against the Commission was driven by disgust with its failure to curb malpractice and bad management. The Parliament surprised itself in December by mustering a majority behind a move to reject the Commission's EU accounts for 1996.

Seeking to clear the air and help the Commission, Mrs Green resorted to a dangerous ploy by calling for a censure vote and daring the critics to vote for it. She underestimated the depth of MEPs' anger.

She had effectively handed a weapon to the hardline anti-Santer forces and now finds herself the architect of the Commission's possible downfall. This has not improved her standing with Tony Blair and other centre-left prime ministers, who are appalled at the risk of paralysis in the EU's machinery at a crucial time for decisions on spending reform.

Many MEPs say the clumsy procedures this week show the need to give the Parliament more precise weapons to discipline the Commission than the existing blunderbuss of censure. Its powers in this field are already to be extended under the Treaty of Amsterdam, which takes effect this spring. The Parliament will then have the right to veto the member states' choice of the Commission President to succeed Mr Santer next January.

YIORGOS KARAHALIS / REUTERS



Greek students attend a protest concert yesterday in Athens to demand the repeal of a law aimed at educational reform. In a two-month uprising, students have occupied 400 state schools, although some of those reopened when term started last Friday

## French purists opt for the euro zone

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AFTER much wordy debate the Académie Française has ruled that the countries pledged to a single currency should be called neither the English-sounding "euroland" nor the pseudo-French "eurolande" but rather the "euro zone", which could be either.

The unexpected compromise by the body in charge of defending and defining the French language follows bitter controversy over the spread of the word euroland, which some purists claimed was yet more evidence that French is being steadily colonised by English terms.

"The Académie advises against the use of euroland because it is not the name of a sovereign state or even a confederation, but simply the area of application of a treaty," the Académiciens declared. "If the United States is not dollarland and Britain is not sterlingland, why should the 11 nations be euroland?"

"Eurolande" was supported by some linguists as a French alternative, but rejected by others who pointed out that the word "lande" is usually used to denote wasteland.

The sages of the Académie pointed out that "euro zone" was already used by the Bank of France and government offices, yet they still face the traditional problem with defending the French tongue: almost nobody uses "euro zone" while the vast majority are as familiar with "euroland" as they are with "Disneyland".

John Laughland, page 16

# Schröder endorses beleaguered Santer

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, yesterday threw the weight of the German presidency behind Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, who is fending off criticism that some of his Commissioners are corrupt and incompetent.

Europe needed a strong Commission at this moment, he said, if it was to reform its finances and open up to candidates from the East.

"We talked about how different European institutions could be involved in an anti-corruption controlling group," the Chancellor said after meeting Mr Santer and the other Commissioners in Bonn. Mr Santer said he had already drawn up plans for an intra-institutional working group and added that "we could expand these ideas to include Herr Schröder's proposals".

Whether this concession to the European Parliament will be enough to overcome Thursday's no-confidence vote on the Commission remains to be seen. In Bonn for the routine meeting to mark the start of the six-month presidency, the 20 Commissioners posed for photographers as if they were about to walk the plank.

"We have become the victims of our own openness," Mr Santer claimed. It was the Commission itself, he said, which had uncovered the controversial cases.

Herr Schröder made plain that the German Government wanted the Commission to stay in place. "My respect for freely-elected parliamentarians is such that I will not publicly advise them how to vote. But to achieve the ambitious goals of the six-month German presidency we need the Commission, the presidency and the parliament to work together," he said.

Mr Santer, he said, was not about to vacate his seat and that was good because he needed a stable and active Commission enjoying the full confidence of the European Parliament if the Agenda 2000 package — reforming European finances and agriculture to prepare the Union for more members — was to be agreed on schedule at a special summit in March.

For his part, Mr Santer said he was not championing either Helmut Kohl, the former German Chancellor, or Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, to become his successor.

"All cards, including the British rebate have to be placed on the table . . . the British rebate, at least in its current dimensions, is no longer justified," said Mr Santer.

Herr Schröder said that from his soundings of other European leaders, everyone seemed willing to give some ground to allow for the overhaul of European finances.

In an interview with *Die Welt* yesterday, Mr Santer said that the Amsterdam Treaty gave the President enhanced powers which might allow individual Commissioners — rather than the whole team — to seek votes of confidence from the European Parliament, avoiding a repeat of this week's crisis.



## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Air force cuts in Russia attacked

**Moscow:** Russia's Air Force chief painted a woeful picture of his command, saying it had disbanded 580 units and dismissed about 30,000 officers, including 69 generals, in 1998. Colonel General Anatoli Kornukov said the force dismissed or retired about 124,000 servicemen, reducing its strength to 185,000. Thirty-two military airfields were closed.

The military is starved of funds because of the Government's inability to collect taxes and provide revenue. All branches of the military suffer from serious shortages of everything from weapons to food and the combat capability of many units is questionable. General Kornukov said pilots averaged 21 flying hours in 1998, far below the level considered sufficient to maintain capability. *(AP)*

### Nuclear cancer check

**Sydney:** New investigations have been ordered into Britain's nuclear tests in Australia amid claims a rare cancer is killing servicemen who witnessed the blasts in the 1950s and '60s. The inquiries come after new research at Dundee University in Scotland showing that the incidence of bone marrow cancer, multiple myeloma, is ten times higher among test veterans than in the general population. Up to 15,000 Australian and 22,000 British servicemen witnessed the explosions conducted at Maralinga on the Monte Bello islands. *(AFP)*

### Ecevit forms Cabinet



**Ankara:** Bulent Ecevit, 73, left, has become Turkey's sixth Prime Minister in three years, leading a pro-secular Cabinet that promises to keep up the fight against a powerful Islamic movement. Ending a six-week government crisis, the veteran politician yesterday put together a minority Government comprising his small Democratic Left Party and three independents, to the approval of President Demirel and the country's military. *(AFP)*

### Road halts tribal war

**Jakarta:** Warring tribes in a remote forest region of Irian Jaya have suspended hostilities so that they can watch a road being built, the *Jakarta Post* reported. "This is the first time for these people to see motorcycles and other vehicles," an official was quoted as saying. The newspaper said some people had walked for four days through the forests of the vast eastern Indonesian province to see helicopters bringing motorcycles, lorries and construction equipment. *(Reuters)*

## Immigrants take blame for crime wave in Milan

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

MASSIMO D'ALEMA, the Italian Prime Minister, will today hold an emergency meeting with top police officials in Milan amid fears that the country's normally civilised and businesslike economic and financial hub is descending into gangsterism of a kind more usually associated with the South.

The alarm has been raised by nine street murders in as many days, several of them apparently involving Third World immigrants and East European mafiosi from Albania and Croatia.

The spiral of violence began on New Year's Day when a Brazilian transvestite, his Italian client and a Sri Lankan bystander all died in a shootout. Soon afterwards armed robberies in shops and bars left a tobacconist and a newsagent dead.

Police say there are about 70,000 immigrants in Milan, many of whom entered Italy illegally, and the influx has changed the landscape, with foreign criminals joining the Mafia gangs from the South in exploiting a rise in drug running and prostitution.

Signor D'Alema, who came to office last October, said the spate of violent crime in Italy's foremost northern city was very serious and that he would travel to Milan today with Rosa Russo Jervolino, the Interior Minister, and Oliviero Diliberto, the Justice Minister. They would announce a "proper response" to ensure public order, Signor D'Alema said. Newspaper reports said the crackdown would involve the deployment of nearly a thousand extra police.

Milan is not only the hub of Italy's financial markets but also the centre of much of its business world, including the fashion industry. Diego Masi, under-secretary at the Interior Ministry, said it was unacceptable that Milan was becoming "like Chicago in the 1930s".

Marco Vitale, a leading Milan businessman, said the city had become "southernised in the worst sense . . . the minimum requirements of a decent life are increasingly difficult to obtain. Milan is drowning in garbage and graffiti, overwhelmed by traffic problems and plagued by a backward administration. The only children one sees are those at traffic lights begging for change."

Although witnesses to the murder of the tobacconist insisted his killers had spoken with southern Italian accents, the violence has fuelled anti-immigrant feeling, with demands for tougher measures to halt illegal immigration. A recent law provided for the expulsion of immigrants without proper papers but at the same time offered an amnesty to illegal immigrants who applied for residence permits.

Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the liberal Archbishop of Milan, appealed to residents not to succumb to anti-immigrant hysteria. He said the rise in crime was part of a moral decline largely due to an increase in drug-taking.

The authorities are also worried by an apparent resurgence of Mafia violence in the South after several years in which a crackdown had brought relative calm. Yesterday police in Sicily rounded up 20 mafiosi said to be involved in a gang which killed five people in a bar earlier this month.

# Clinton trial set for operatic climax

## Legal team argues for dismissal of impeachment articles, writes Bronwen Maddox in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton's lawyers yesterday filed a stinging 13-page defence to the impeachment charges threatening his presidency, denying "each and every material allegation against him".

"The charges in the articles do not rise to the level of 'high crimes and misdemeanours' as contemplated by the Founding Fathers, and they do not satisfy the rigorous constitutional standard applied through our nation's history," they argued, in a response delivered just minutes before the noon deadline.

Mr Clinton's defence, his formal response to the Senate's summons for the first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years, concluded with the blunt declaration that "the articles of impeachment should be dismissed". The document is signed by a small army of 11 lawyers, a symbol of the White House's determination to spare no resources in defending the President.

There was speculation yesterday that the whole Clinton legal team would walk up the steps of Capitol Hill later this week when the trial formally begins on the Senate floor, for a confrontation with the 13 managers of the House of Representatives, the prosecution.

The trial could bring an operatic climax to the year-long Lewinsky saga, with the possibility that minor and major players in the drama, from Monica Lewinsky to White House secretary Betty Currie, will all assemble on the Senate stage, surrounded by choruses of lawyers and congressmen.

But the White House and Senate moderates are still hoping for a curtailed trial in which no witnesses are called and the Senate votes early to dismiss the matter, perhaps invoking the compromise of a formal censure.

Slightly tempering the force of its response, the White House yesterday seemed set to hold back from filing a formal motion calling on the Senate to dismiss the charges immediately. Leading Democrats on Capitol Hill had said they would be furious if Mr Clinton filed such a motion, as he would seem to be thumbing his nose at the carefully-constructed Senate consensus.

The Senate spent the weekend in a happy mood of self-congratulation for having reached a cross-party pact on how to hold at least the early stages of the trial. That has proved tactical gold dust, leaving both the White House and the House of Representatives unsettled, suddenly deferential to the upper house.

The House managers were anxiously debating yesterday whether to file motions to shape the course of the trial by the deadline of 5pm. The White House will now wait until after the opening presentations to call for the case to be thrown out.

But as the first stage of the trial began, it became clear that open warfare between the parties may simply have been postponed for several weeks, until they decide whether to call witnesses. The House is adamant that the Senate must call six to 10 witnesses, including Ms Lewinsky.

"It is uncomfortable to listen to what happened in the Oval Office," said Representative Lindsey Graham, a member of the prosecution team. "But to give [Mr Clinton] the legal benefit because his conduct . . . is uncomfortable is the wrong message to send."

But Tom Daschle, leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, is battling to avoid calling witnesses on the grounds that nothing new would be added to the volumes of documents.

Democratic Senator Tim Johnson from South Dakota said: "I feel more optimistic that we are not going to have another OJ trial — that we can avoid something that goes on and on." He said that the Senate might be able to dispense with witnesses altogether.

Mr Clinton spent yesterday meeting President Menem of Argentina to discuss drug trafficking and Iraq. He is determined to press ahead with his State of the Union address next week despite pressure from senators to postpone it.

KEVIN LAMARQUE: REUTERS




Hillary Clinton recalled less tumultuous days yesterday when she launched a commemorative dollar to honour Dolley Madison, wife of James Madison, the fourth President. Mrs Madison, pictured on the book held by Mrs Clinton, is the first First Lady to be immortalised in this way



Larry Flynt, publisher of the pornographic magazine *Hustler*, has vowed to expose adultery in high places

# Porn king set to pounce

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE capital was in a state of anxiety last night as Larry Flynt, the pornographer, prepared to "out" a batch of adulterous members of Congress.

For those who have spent the past few weeks wondering if it was their indiscretions that were to be exposed, the wait was almost over. Mr Flynt, who publishes the magazine Hustler, had promised to expose a dozen politicians, all but one Republican, to demonstrate that those sitting in judgment on President Clinton were hypocrites.

According to his office six cases were ready to be publicised and the details of another six were being compiled.

Mr Flynt was planning to hold a press conference in Los Angeles last night. The pornographer said he had been inundated with information about the infidelities of people in public life after he placed newspaper advertisements last year offering a reward of up to $1 million (£606,000) to those who could prove they had extramarital affairs with congressmen or senators or other high-profile politicians.

Rumours in Washington have encompassed every conceivable sleazy story, from the use of teenage Mexican prostitutes by one Republican to homosexual affairs and dalliances with conspicuously over-promoted secretaries.

Allan MacDonell, Editor of Hustler, said that six affairs were "signed, sealed and delivered with affidavits and corroborating evidence", and involved "people who go on TV and keep attacking Clinton".

He said most of the victims had already suspected they were on the hit-list but one individual continued to bait Mr Clinton. "There's this one guy, I don't see how he can keep posturing the way he is. I mean, he's got to know."

Hustler whittled down claims of 250 affairs to 30 that were checked by private investigators. Mr MacDonell said no one had been paid $1 million but Mr Flynt is expected to spend $4 million in total.

Bob Livingston, the incoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, resigned last month over a report that he had a string of extramarital affairs. Mr Flynt denied that he was the source of this information, but admitted that his team had been investigating the Louisiana representative.

When he launched his campaign, Mr Flynt said he wanted to expose "hypocrisy in its highest form". He was referring to those in the House and Senate who have been weighing the case against President Clinton. "People always lie about sex — to get sex, during sex, after sex, about sex. I totally disagree that perjury [in such a case] is perjury. Lying about your private life, even under oath, is totally different," he said.

# Albright dashes spy's hope of freedom

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JONATHAN POLLARD, the American jailed for life for spying for Israel, seemed unlikely to receive clemency last night after new details emerged about his espionage activities. It was also reported that Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had recommended that he should not be released.

At the Middle East summit last year, President Clinton promised Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, that he would look into the case for leniency towards Pollard, a former US Navy analyst who was arrested in 1985 and jailed for providing secret documents to Israel.

But in a confidential recommendation, Ms Albright told Mr Clinton there was no foreign policy reason to release Pollard and no basis for overriding the views of the US intelligence community that he should remain in prison, according to senior officials quoted by the Associated Press.

Mr Clinton is expected to make a decision soon on the case, but Ms Albright's recommendation, combined with the vehement belief of George Tenet, director of the CIA, that Pollard should remain incarcerated, is likely to seal his fate.

An article by the investigative journalist Seymour Hersh in yesterday's *New Yorker* magazine cites the views of intelligence officials who believe Pollard did more damage to national security than has previously been revealed.

Hersh says that documents which Pollard handed over to Israel included a directory of signals intercepted by the National Security agency, providing insights into American spying techniques. Intelligence officers have long believed that the documents ended up in the hands of the intelligence services of the then Soviet Union.

Some CIA sources believe Israel used Pollard to obtain the US attack plan against the former Soviet Union. Some of the material was exchanged with Moscow for Jewish scientists, according to one Middle East CIA station chief.



# Clothes fastener undoes bigfoot's fancy-dress act

## Close analysis threatens a cherished US myth, writes Giles Whittell

TALL, brown and hairy, she flees over a stream bed into dense forest, leaving only a set of giant footprints and a few seconds of scratchy 16mm film in the hands of two excited backwoodsmen.

The film, shot by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in a remote corner of northern California in 1967, has served true believers ever since as sacred proof of the existence of the fabled bigfoot, in this case a lone female caught dawdling in the Six Rivers National Forest near the Oregon border. Two analysts now say it is a hoax.

Deconstructing the Patterson-Gimlin film frame by frame with the help of colour photocopiers and computers, a Canadian bigfoot buff claims he has identified a man-made fastener at the creature's waist that reveals it not a feral descendant of *Gigantopithecus* but a human in a bulky suit.

The fastener, roughly the shape of a bottle opener, can be seen swinging against the creature's coat in four adjacent frames of the film. Chris Murphy of Vancouver claims after an exhaustive analysis that has put an entire sub-culture of bigfoot loyalists on the defensive.

"It was a hoax. How can an artificial, man-made object end up on a bigfoot?" asked Cliff Crook, a fellow sceptic who has publicised Mr Murphy's findings. Both men have been branded traitors to a fondly-preserved myth with parallels in the Himalayan yeti legend and literary echoes as old as Jonathan Swift's "yahoos".

Unlike the yeti, however, its American cousin has stalwart backers in academia. "I fully accept the Patterson film," said Professor Grover Krantz, an anthropologist at Washington State University in Seattle who dismisses the Murphy analysis as amateur and irrelevant. "If there was a fastener it could not be seen in an enlargement," he said. "The film grain is such that it cannot hold an image of something that small."

Tell-tale signs of bigfoot activity include flattened grass, twisted foliage and, above all, the stench of its musk, according to believers. Messrs Patterson and Gimlin confirmed all these on that October day in 1967, insists Ray Crowe, president of the Western Bigfoot Society. The image in their film "has a fluid motion; it's a wild creature of nature," he said at the weekend.

In fact it is blurred, jerky, and probably a prank.



The alleged bigfoot approaches a stream in a frame from the disputed 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film

# We are living longer — but life can't be bought in a bottle

A number of recent studies have found that vegetarians tend to live longer, healthier lives than meat-eaters. What causes the difference is unknown. It might be that eating meat does something to shorten life, or that the vegetarian diet contains something good for longevity, such as tofu. The Japanese diet is high in vegetables and soya products, which some think is why the Japanese live three years longer, on average, than the Americans and British.

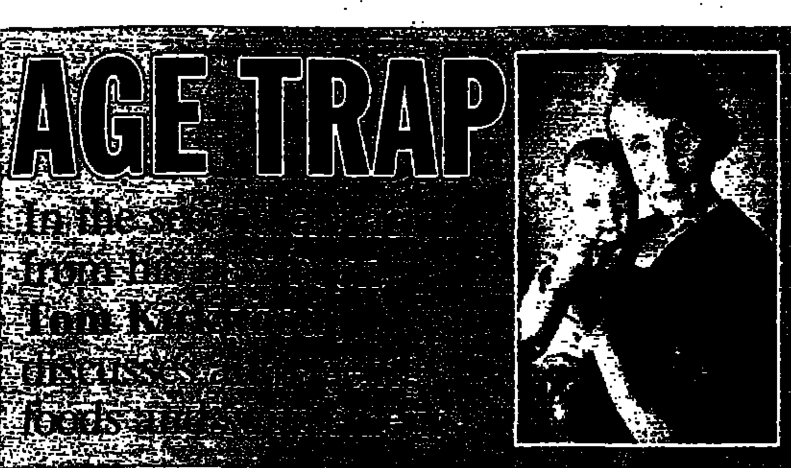
Fish is another ingredient in Japanese food that is good for longevity. Research has shown that fish oils may help to protect against heart disease and stroke.

But there is, as yet, little evidence for the efficacy of most nutritional supplements. Antioxidants are promoted nowadays as agents to help combat ageing. It makes some sense to suppose that, if you add antioxidants to your diet, you may stave off some of the ravages of free radicals. But compared with the potent antioxidants that your cells manufacture already, those you take on a spoon or in a tablet may make little difference — and it is as well to beware of tinkering with what we do not yet fully understand.

That said, I do believe that some nutritional supplements are worth taking, so long as medical opinion confirms that they are not toxic. Vitamin C is well tolerated by the body in high doses, although above 4g a day it has been linked to kidney-stone formation and gout. It provides a general antioxidant protection. Vitamin E supplementation also makes some sense because it quenches free-radical chain reactions in membranes. The recommended allowance is 30mg daily.

Yet even if nutritional supplements do you no good at all, there is still the placebo effect. This should not be underrated. The idea that the mind can influence the immune system was once rubbished by medical science — yet recent studies suggest that injections of testosterone once a week, or testosterone skin patches, can help older men to stay leaner, stronger, happier and more virile (although they may be at increased risk of atherosclerosis and prostate cancer). Add to this the effectiveness of Viagra as a treatment for impotence, and some of men's anxieties about getting older can be allayed.

Hormone replacement therapy for women has an even stronger biological rationale in view of the abrupt shutdown of ovarian hormones that occurs at the menopause. Millions of menopausal women now take oestrogen hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to combat hot flushes and the other unwelcome side-




effects of "the change". There is strong suggestive evidence that HRT brings other benefits in the form of reduced post-menopausal bone loss, reduced risk of breast cancer and of cardiovascular disease, and even a degree of protection against Alzheimer's disease. On the minus side, there is some suggestion that it increases the risk of ovarian cancer.

Three other hormones have received considerable attention over the past years for their possible effects on the ageing process: growth hormone; dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA); and melatonin. The rationale for the claims made on behalf of each of these is that production of the hormone declines with age. Boosting its level back to something like the level in youth might, it is suggested, ameliorate or reverse some aspects of ageing.

In the case of melatonin, neither the hypothesis nor the data are convincing. Melatonin's primary effect seems to be on the circadian rhythm — the biological cycle that keeps us working to a 24-hour clock. It is a weak antioxidant, but its contribution to the body's overall antioxidant capacity is negligible.

DHEA's role in ageing has also been the subject of wildly exaggerated claims. This is a steroid hormone produced by the adrenal glands in both men and women. It plays a role, yet to be fully defined, in the production of other hormones, particularly oestrogen and testosterone. Given that these play important roles in female and male biology, and that HRT has significant effects on ageing, it will not be at all surprising if DHEA supplementation also has biological effects in old age, some of which may be beneficial. But that does not make it the fountain of youth in a bottle.

Growth hormone is a potent stimulator of growth in children, and in later life it continues to be produced according to a 24-hour cycle, albeit at a declining level. But its effect on muscle mass has not been shown convincingly to translate into enhanced strength and endurance in older people. Serious concern has also been expressed about its side-effects.

The most worrying thing about the way in which some hormone therapies for ageing are touted and sold is that the claims pay such scant regard not only to the nature of the ageing process, but to what is known about how hormones work. Hormones are potent biological agents, often with complex and multiple effects, and often released within the body on a tightly co-ordinated schedule — not the sort of thing you would expect to work by swallowing a pill or two.

Anti-wrinkle creams generally work by using chemistry to affect the appearance of the skin, mostly by plumping and rehydrating dried-up cells. Although manufacturers have dropped claims that such creams tackle the intrinsic ageing of the skin, some packaging still carries a lot of scientific gobbledegook.

A new development is the range of skin creams containing retinoic acid. This will not tackle the underlying damage that has occurred through ageing of the skin cells, but it does appear to have some effect on the damage caused by sunlight.

If I have disheartened you by suggesting that the search for long life is a hopeless cause, let me assure you that nothing is farther from the truth. We are living longer, and there is encouraging evidence from the US that the period of disability before death is getting shorter. But you would be kidding yourself to think that long life can be bought in a bottle.

● *Time of Our Lives is published on January 28 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20.*

# Birthing books and babies

Pregnancy sparks creativity, says **Kate Muir**, who delivered a novel and child within weeks of each other


ALISTAIR MILLER

Kate Muir and sons: "My pregnant body had been taken over by alien forces, but my mind was still there, on overdrive"

A bestselling comic novelist panics. Her nanny is sick and she has two days to finish the final draft of her book. As her toddler lists demands that a terrorist would be proud of, the author calls her editor, Suzanne Baboneau at Macmillan, to postpone.

"We can't," says Baboneau. "I'll come over, we'll finish it now." But Baboneau's situation is little better. She has a seven-week-old daughter and is breastfeeding. The two women sit down, amid demands for pampering and Pampers, to make the cut. The author suddenly looks up: "I bet Martin Amis doesn't have to do this."

That novel was a bestseller, *unaffected by its speedy, milk*-spattered edit, and is soon to be a film. But after Baboneau, who is my editor, told me this story, I began thinking whether creativity and procreation were compatible. I was enduring the bouncy-castle days of late pregnancy and scrabbling to finish a novel myself when I read the headlines: "Health warning: having a baby can shrink your brain" and "Just as we thought — pregnant women do lose their minds".

It was 1997 and a London anaesthetist, Dr Anita Holdcroft, had found, after scanning women's brains in late pregnancy, that they seemed to have shrunk. They returned to full size six weeks or a few months after the birth. This, everyone concluded, explained the absent-mindedness mentioned in pregnancy manuals. The report irritated me because *this time round, in my* second pregnancy, I felt marginally less stupid than usual. Then I noticed a throwaway line in the study: "It is also possible that the women's brains were *swelling* from a normal size, the researchers conclude." Perhaps nature was giving *mothers bigger brain cells or* connections so they could cope with the doublethink needed to look after two people instead of one. I could but hope that this was true. For while my pregnant body had been taken over by alien forces, my mind was still there, on overdrive. I had *been rising at 3am to type my* novel, half-dreaming and half-working on scenes, when my son Finn (now nearly two) saw fit to kick me awake. Maybe it was hormonal and hallucinogenic, maybe it was because I knew my spare time was about to be rudely shortened, but the first draft was written a few weeks before contractions began.

Health warning: pregnancy may be linked to creativity but there is no way of telling, as with childbirth, if the result will be good or bad. Barbara Kingsolver, an award-winning American writer, says in an essay about her first novel: "The baby was premeditated, but the book I'd conceived recklessly, in a closet late at night, when the restlessness of my *insomniac pregnancy* drove me to compulsive verbal intercourse with my soul. The pages that grew in a stack were incidental to the process."

> Men rely on drugs, pregnant women hallucinate naturally

Louise Erdrich, of *The Beet Queen* and other novels, wrote in *Harper's* about her working day in a hut opposite her house: "I come here every day to write, starting while invisibly pregnant. *I imagine* myself somewhere else, in another skin, another person, another time. Yet simultaneously my body is constructing its own character. It requires no thought at all for me to form and fix a whole other person."

*When her child is born* everything goes belly up, so to speak. She doesn't get much done, and all pleasure is "tempered by sleep deprivation. We wonder why prisoners break more easily without sleep." Desperately she tells her baby: "*I give up. I'll tell you anything.*" Indeed, sleep deprivation, more than anything else, is probably what causes new mothers to lose their minds. But there are times when it all clicks for Erdrich: "Sometimes I hold my child in one arm, nursing, and write with the other hand, with no separation of thought and physical being."

Creative writing may be the one activity, apart from housework, that can just about be combined with child-rearing. Lucille Clifton was once asked *why her poems* were always short, and replied: "I have six children, and a memory that can hold about 20 lines until the end of the day."

Birthing books and babies is not a recent habit. Marguerite Duras produced her first son and novel in 1942. Mary Wollstonecraft published *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, ran off to Paris, found a lover and got pregnant in the middle of the French Revolution. She was determined to finish volume one of *An Historical and Moral View of the Origins and Progress of the French Revolution* before giving birth in 1794. She seems to have equated her book with her pregnancy: "It has grown under my hand," she wrote in the introduction.

Wollstonecraft's *interpretations* of the Revolution altered as her pregnancy progressed. Her biographer writes: "It was important to her to be able to reassert her faith in humanity and its future as an intellectual corollary to the emotional and physical promise of her child." Wollstonecraft died after bearing her second child, who became *Mary Shelley*.

Again, Shelley's Gothic novel, *Frankenstein*, was published in 1818, and she had given birth to two children (who died in 1820) in the two preceding years. Studies of women's dreams during pregnancy *show them to be particularly* psychedelic and vivid, and who can say how this affected the birth of Frankenstein himself. While men may rely on drugs for seminal works such as *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, women have their *hallucinations naturally*. As Erdrich says: "One could say that my work is hormone-driven ... I feel I am transcribing from a flow of language running through the room."

A heroine in my own novel is an absurd, rather dizzy New York artist who suddenly finds inspiration during pregnancy, perhaps as much by the need to make money to support her child as the creative urge. For another great advantage of childbirth is that it eliminates writer's block: if your children *are in nursery school for four* hours, you have to insist that the muse arrives on time.

That's enough anecdotal evidence. You'll be glad to hear that studies published last November by the neuropsychologist Craig Kinsley, of the University of Richmond in Virginia, show that hormones released during pregnancy make animals bolder, more curious and energetic. In pregnant mice the number of brain cells necessary for communication between neurons doubled.

"Pregnancy seems to mark the brain for a lifetime," says Dr Kinsley. "The brain of a late-pregnant female resembles a toy factory at Christmas, receiving orders and gearing up for the increased demands about to be placed on it." Wollstonecraft, Shelley and Erdrich *could have told him that.*

● *Suffragette City by Kate Muir is published this week by Macmillan, £12.99.*

# Alternative to hysterectomy

## MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

ONE woman in 20 aged between 30 and 50 consults her doctor annually about heavy periods. This underestimates the problem, however, as one *woman in four has periods* that are heavier than is medically desirable.

A new means of treating this problem — by eradicating part of the lining of the uterus, thereby avoiding a hysterectomy — is now being used by some gynaecologists. It involves the heating of a sterile fluid contained within a balloon, which has been introduced into the uterus, to a point where the uterine lining is destroyed. It does not involve admission to hospital.

Human nature doesn't change. Dr James Johnson, writing in *The London Medical Review* in 1825, said: "We consider extirpation of the uterus one of the most cruel and infeasible (sic) operations that was ever executed by the head or hand of man." Even today, *in a third of cases of* hysterectomy, there is no obvious disease in the uterus that causes excessive bleeding. ThermaChoice, the heated-balloon method of treatment, would reduce the need for any thoughts of hysterectomy.

*Heavy periods have been de*fined by doctors as the loss of more than 80ml of blood during any one period, a condition known as menorrhagia. They consider as excessive the need to change a pad or tampon more often than every two *hours. The use of more than* ten sanitary pads a day for more than seven days is an indication that periods are heavier than they should be. When there is a heavy loss of blood, there is also likely to be occasional flooding, with attendant social embarrassment.

The important tests are whether a woman feels that her periods are heavier than they should be, or whether the recurrent blood loss has affected her general health as a result of her becoming anaemic. The woman may not even realise why she is unusually tired, or even breathless, but the effects will influence her domestic, social and professional life.

Doctors divide menorrhagia into two categories. Those which are related to physical abnormality in the *uterus are described as struc*tural menorrhagia — conditions such as polyps, fibroids, infections or endometriosis, or very occasionally, a malignancy. The second group is labelled dysfunctional menorrhagia — the result of some medical condition, such as a side-effect of taking some particular drug or, more often hormonal imbalance.

Many drugs are used in the medical treatment of dysfunctional bleeding, often after dilation and curettage (D and C) — in which a doctor scrapes away the lining of the uterus so that its cells may be examined under the microscope. This is not a treatment but a necessary step in any investigation. Surgical treatment for heavy periods consists of either hysterectomy or uterine ablation. Hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, is the choice of treatment in some forms of structural menorrhagia. Uterine ablation is the removal of a greater part of the uterine lining: the source of the heavy bleeding. It is not always successful and some will need a hysterectomy later.

ThermaChoice (uterine balloon therapy) and uterine ablation are equally effective. ThermaChoice is comparatively cheap at about £300 on the *NHS*. A local *anaesthetic* is given before the balloon is inflated with enough sterile fluid to fit snugly into the uterine cavity. The fluid is heated to 87C and maintained at that temperature for eight minutes. This level destroys a significant proportion of the uterine lining. Thereafter, the fluid is drained away, the balloon deflated and the device removed.

The procedure, which takes less than half an hour, effectively controls bleeding in 85 per cent of cases; thereafter *menstrual* bleeding usually continues, but at an acceptable level. Although subsequent conception is unlikely, it can occur, and a woman should continue usual contraceptive measures. There can be pain, infection and bleeding but these affect less than 4 *per cent of women and no seri*ous adverse effects have been reported. Periods may take two or three months to return to an acceptable level.

# A prisons inspector of compassion and conscience

General Sir David Ramsbotham is a man on a mission. Interview by **Grace Bradberry**

Compassion is a loaded word when it comes to prisoners, particularly those sentenced to life. Should we show any to people who have taken a life, raped, committed arson? Yesterday it was revealed that not only are there now more than 4,000 lifers, but that some of them are elderly (the oldest is 87). At Kingston jail in Portsmouth, a special unit has been fitted with chairlifts, ramps and suitable bath facilities.

Zimmer frames in the cell blocks — what a sad vision. But it is the sort of depressing sight to which General Sir David Ramsbotham, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, has become inured since he took over from Judge Stephen Tumim in 1995. "Rambo", as he was apparently affectionately known in the Army, was appointed by Michael Howard. The hardline Home Secretary presumably hoped that a tour of duty in Northern Ireland and experience of the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester would have produced a more robust attitude to prison regimes than that possessed by Sir Stephen.

Sir David did indeed apply military principles to the job — although not in the way that Howard might have hoped. "That was a fantastic military manoeuvre," he says, chortling as he recounts his "walk-out" from Holloway in only his second week in the post. "The prison was at a standstill. It was *filthy* dirty and *nothing* was happening. So I felt that — good old military principle — if it's dirty, show again." Wouldn't it have been better just to finish the inspection and produce a full report? "At that time I was very concerned that reports of the inspectorate were taking over a year to be published — nothing would happen." In other words, it was a counter-tactic to Howard's ruse of delaying reports.

And so began the battles with home secretaries, the director of the prison service, the Whitehall machine, that have been waged, often through the media, for four years. Sir David sees himself as Our Man in Wandsworth, there to give the public the truth on their prisons and to stick up for the welfare of prisoners. Officialdom sees him as a prickly thorn in its side.

You might think that the arrival of new Labour would have changed that, but scarcely a month had gone by when Sir David announced that the Government was planning to merge the probation and prison services to cut reoffending. The Government denied it, and Jack Straw is said to have phoned Sir David to express "extreme irritation".



Sir David: sees himself as a crusader

Sir David sees himself as a crusader, just as much as Sir Stephen did. He believes that jails are doing a great job of keeping prisoners locked up but are failing to reform prisoners while they are inside. "You could use that time to identify what is wrong with someone — rather like a hospital — and then use that time for the best advantage of the individual *and* to the best advantage of the public," he says.

His is a mission that goes way beyond simply filing reports on the state of latrines and the length of time spent in cells — and, it must be said, a mission that tends to go way beyond the remit of his job which is simply to inspect prisons, not the prison service as a whole.

He is 70, but his secretary tells me that he rises at five o'clock each morning, a habit acquired when he and his wife, Susan, were taking the same Open University art history course. They have two sons, one of whom entered the Army. Educated at Haileybury then Corpus Christi, Cambridge, he was considered one of the Army's intellectuals. He also faced his share of danger, including a car bomb mistakenly planted under a neighbour's car, which fell off and lay in the road for a week before being discovered. Even after that Sir David refused to take himself out of the telephone directory.

He is 6ft 4in and you notice every inch because, of course, he doesn't slouch. But there is a brio and flamboyance about him that dispel any stiffness (he used to go into battle wearing a red cravat). He tells me with gusto of an inspector, many years ago, who committed suicide in Wandsworth prison. You can't imagine anything getting Sir David down.

He has only 11 months of his five-year contract left and it is natural to wonder what he considers his chief achievements. "Golly," he says. "Er. Well. I think probably the key achievement is to encourage the prison service to treat women and young offenders separately from adult males." When he first went to see Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, "I discovered that there was nobody in charge of women in the prison service except for a civil servant in some policy desk." There is now a director of regimes, with an assistant director in charge of women and young offenders.

> I'd like to be Chief Inspector of the Prison Service

So much for his achievements. But his ambitions are greater. "Ideally, I would like to be, and have made no secret of it, Chief Inspector of the Prison *Service*." Straw has told him, plainly, that he can't.

And so he is left to comment on conditions — but not on the system that creates them. His principle gripe is that when criminals are incarcerated, they enter a kind of isolation zone. When he first began inspecting he found that even the pre-sentence reports were not automatically passed to prisons. "The social services wouldn't share anything, which worried us, about youngsters, particularly." And: "An awful lot of people didn't seem to think it appropriate to contact schools and find out what the record had been." The prison medical service is separate from the NHS. "So medical records don't get transferred. Now this seems to me to be absolutely *mad*, frankly."

His other major beef is that prisons do not try to discover more about the people they are locking up. In addition to the education assessment that already takes place, he would like to see questions asked about social skills, fitness and work skills. "The New Deal this Government has introduced includes a psychometric test. What is interesting in those is that they produce an idea of the *potential* of an individual. That says to me 'Well, why don't we do that anyway?'

"The hideous fact is that 90 per cent of those leaving prison don't get a job, and having been in prison anyway you are disadvantaged, so for heaven's sake don't pile misery on top of misery."

It was views such as these, all geared towards rehabilitation rather than retribution, that led to clashes with Michael Howard. "He said to me that he understood that I felt that people went to prison *as* a punishment and not *for* punishment. I said, yes, but I thought that was the policy of his Government, because that was actually quoting Leon Brittan.

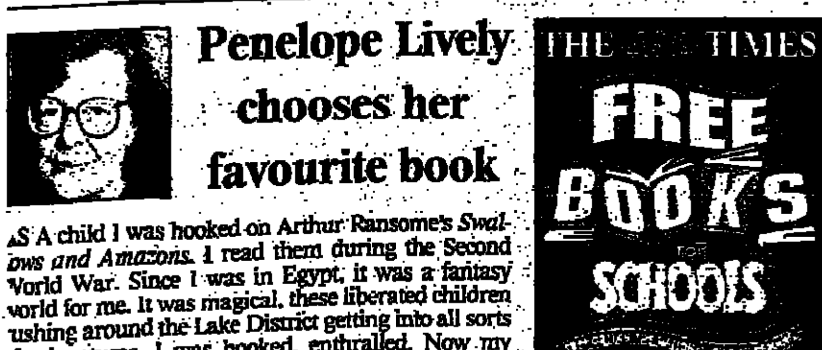
"He said he disagreed with me, and so I asked him what sort of prisons he expected me to find, and he said 'Decent but austere in which there are progressive regimes to tackle reoffending based on the opportunities for work and education.' I have to say I wondered where the punishment was in there. We didn't go on . . ."

He is far more circumspect about his relations with Jack Straw. Are they any better than with Howard? "I don't know that I can really answer that," he says, warily. "I see them both regularly. Funnily enough, I saw Michael Howard in Westminster Abbey at the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I was sitting behind him. Ha, ha, ha." The irony of the occasion cannot be lost on either of them.

"I think it is true to say that Jack Straw's agenda is different from Michael Howard's and he is establishing, thank goodness, the principle of the criminal justice system working as a system."

In truth, much of the friction with both Home Secretaries has centred on Sir David's skilled use of the media. He was even included in Chapman Pincher's recent *Spectator* article, "Leakers I have known". He looks rather embarrassed when I mention this. "All my reports are made public," he says. "None of them is classified, so where are the secrets? I've got none. And I can't have. And I'm telling the public about *their* prisons."

There remains something incongruous about this military man championing compassion in our prisons. Is he a liberal, then? "If liberal means do I support the idea that prisoners must be treated with humanity then the answer is yes. They are human beings."





## Penelope Lively chooses her favourite book

AS A child I was hooked on Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*. I read them during the Second World War. Since I was in Egypt, it was a fantasy world for me. It was magical, these liberated children rushing around the Lake District getting into all sorts of adventures. I was hooked, enthralled. Now my grandchildren are equally fascinated by them.




WIN McNAMEE/REUTERS





DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS



CHARLES CROWELL/REUTERS



Smother me and mother me: Margaret and Robin Cook, Bill Clinton and Hillary, Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger, Rachel Hunter with Rod Stewart

# Looking for a mummy

Every woman knows that for all their talk of independent lifestyles, men just want to be mothered, says **Tina Gaudoin**

If you're worth your salt as a member of the female race, you too were probably choking on your cornflakes this past Sunday morning as you read Margaret Cook's revelations about the dastardly, serially unfaithful, Robin. If you're male you're probably wondering (in a quietly admiring way) how the hell he got away with it for so long. But, perhaps the most salient point in the whole turgid story (and Margaret writes quite well, don't you think?) is the first Mrs Cook's analysis that her refusal to act as a mother figure to her husband "may have been one significant factor in the ultimate breakdown of our marriage".

It's elementary. Every woman knows that men — for all their independent, new renaissance "let me change the nappy" nonsense — want to be mothered. And every man knows that for all his desires to marry a career babe who brings in the dough, looks good in a suit and is great in the sack, he really wants to be cooked fish pie, tucked up in bed each night and soothed to sleep on a comforting bosom.

If you're seeking the perfect example, look no further than the boys from *Men Behaving Badly*. Years of macho, drunken, loutish behaviour and where did it get them? Shacked up with two respectable, mumsy types who will no doubt be profering slippers, pipe and forgiveness in the next series (if there is one).

Of course, forgiveness is key to mummying in marriage. After all, Margaret Cook kept the relationship limping along for years by turning a blind eye at best and reproaching at worst. And Hillary Clinton could teach a masterclass in forgiving and forgetting. Who among us hasn't fallen for the little boy lost act? Dammit, women are programmed to say "ahhh" to puppies, kittens and any human under four years of age. There's a kind of Darwinistic instinct present in males that makes their first line of defence the doe-eyed, "I'm sorry I didn't mean it" approach.

The problems start, as Margaret Cook rightly points out, when the female partner refuses "to be mother". I doubt whether Diana, Princess of Wales ever intended to serve Charles boiled eggs on a tray in front of the telly. Although the initial approach she took, of coming over all maternal and "feeling his pain" at the loss of Earl Mountbatten, was probably what hooked him in the first place. But Diana, with all her insecurities and frail talents, needed looking after herself, which was probably why Charles returned to the more motherly Camilla Parker Bowles.

If you've got a strange relationship with your mother-in-law, take it as a compliment. Mothers can spot prospective wives who will be good "mummies" a mile off. And they rankle at the idea of their darling boy marrying anything less. Hence the Queen's reserve about Diana, but embracing of Sophie Rhys-Jones. She might purport to be a business whiz, but with legs like that, a solid middle-class Home Counties upbringing and a savvy understanding of what she's getting herself into, Sophie will undoubtedly take over where Mrs Windsor Senior left off.

You don't have to be dowdy to "mummy" in marriage. In fact, it would help if you weren't. The new male would like nothing better than to combine supermodel with super mummy. If you could be Diana by day and Delia by night you'd have the marriage market all sewn up.

But even those who have the whole package get bored. Rachel Hunter has decided she "needs some space" away from husband Rod Stewart. And the glamorous Jerry Hall has allegedly become tired of the maternal care and devotion she's given Mick — not to mention turning a blind eye to all those infidelities. Having given birth again, she's decided she has enough on her plate, without dealing with the antics of a 55-year-old going on five.

So, you're sitting there smugly thinking that of course you are not (a) the "mummy" in your marriage or (b) married to a "mummy". Well, think again, mummying can take many forms. Sure, your husband/partner cooks for you occasionally, but doesn't the kitchen look like an engine from Concorde has dropped into it when he's finished? And don't you find yourself cleaning up, after he's cleaned up? The don't-bother-I'll-do-it-myself response is also part of mummying. How many times have you been halfway through issuing instructions to your partner about how to erect the travel cot, or get the phone reconnected (because he's forgotten to pay the bill) when an anguished or plain dumb look, illicits the aforementioned reaction.

Admittedly some men don't even make any pretence at deviating from the mother norm — they go the whole hog and marry women who are like their mothers, literally or metaphorically. Take Richard and Judy, daytime talkshow hosts. Husband and wife, they could almost be mother and son. To those among us who have asked 'why?', the answer is to be found in Judy's constant and warm affirmation of Richard on (and one imagines off) screen.

As Margaret Cook's agonising memoirs make clear, a man who is not having his ego bolstered, is a man who is primed for an affair. I'm talking about the appreciative guff that we females put out on daily on behalf of our male partners. I, who pride myself on being the antithesis of my husband's "mummy", am guilty of plenty of it. At dinner parties he sits smugly as I recount how he is "great with the children", can run a 3hr 20 marathon or has "worked incredibly hard". The point is not that he does not say flattering things about me; it is just that if you listen closely, you'll notice that female discourse is littered with male affirmation.

And don't think men haven't cottoned on to the weaknesses in those of us who profess to have non-mummying relationships. In fact, manipulating one's independent, non-mummyish "power wife" has become something of a late 1990s, testosterone-loaded game.

A friend of mine recalls a conversation she overheard between her husband (a lawyer) and his friend (a barrister) after she and the barrister's wife had handed over their respective six-month-olds while they went shopping. Lawyer: "I hope I can get this feeding and nappy changing thing right". Barrister: "Get it *right*? Good God, you need to do the whole thing as badly as you can so you're never asked to do it again!"

# Guardian man and a secret love

How can you tell if your lover is infatuated with another? The surest giveaway is "mentionitis". A condition first identified in the best-selling guide to doomed love, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, it is a killer clue more ominous than lipstick on the collar. If a particular name crops up consistently in your partner's conversation at the oddest points, a repetitive invocation of "Mark" this or "Mary" that, then that really is it. Now's the time to make the traditional preparations for parting — arranging a jungle trip to South America, calling your agent and negotiating serialisation rights.

Margaret Cook had to live for years with the knowledge that her husband was fascinated by another. The telltale signs were there, even when Robin Cook spoke disparagingly of his mistress. The leader of the Labour Party also has an obsession; so does the Editor of *The Guardian*. But do their regular partners read the signs?

Tony Blair can't help mentioning his mentor, in a manner which recalls Mr D'Arcy's attitude towards Elizabeth Bennett. The superficial disdain cannot mask the consistency of that woman's hold on the imagination. Mr Blair may claim to hate her, but he's clearly besotted with Margaret Thatcher.

He invited comparisons between his 1997 manifesto and her's in 1979 and then sought to claim the Government's handling of Diana's death was "his Falklands". Some might consider it required rather greater steel to send a task force halfway across the world to raise the Union Jack than to send a spin-doctor up the Mall to lower the Royal Standard, but in love it's the thought that counts.

But this particular affair is likely to end just as the first Oedipal infatuation did — in tragedy. Mrs Thatcher's success sprang from her willingness to defy consensus and risk unpopularity. She won admirers because she walked alone. Mr Blair is afraid to stand out in Europe, unprepared to divorce himself from the fashionable and incapable of distancing himself from reliance on Peter Mandelson. He wills the end without daring the means. Faint heart never won Iron Lady.

The same sickness of the heart afflicts another on the Left. The Editor of *The Guardian is a man in the grip of a* doomed obsession. Although Alan Rusbridger devoted two pages of his newspaper yesterday to how he fell in love with the Net, the real object of his infatuation is another global media phenomenon.

The name is mentioned, almost every day, in his paper. And the image of the one who holds him in thrall has been transformed into an icon. Just as Renaissance artists had to incorporate the face of their muse on murals, or latter-day lovers hire Piccadilly Circus neon signs to make their proposals, so *The Guardian's* Editor has decorated billboards across the country with *the profile of his obsession*, and a brief quote from the beloved. The face that launched these thousand clips? Rupert Murdoch's.

Of course, *The Guardian* protests that it hates the dark prince of print. It really detests him. Oh God, can't stand the vulgar creature. But it won't stop mentioning his name.

In an editorial yesterday it even managed to blame him for this Government's woes. Talk about counter-intuitive. The idea that the real source of recent trouble is neither Brown nor Mandelson but an international media magnate shows a disregard for the obvious which is the hallmark of obsessiveness.

It is, on one level, an example not so much of shooting the messenger as riddling the post office with artillery fire. But, on a deeper level, it reflects a man not fully in control of his feelings. We can imagine Mr Rusbridger confiding in a friend, like Jude discussing her obsession with the dastardly Vile Richard in *Bridget Jones's Diary*: "I hate him, I hate him, I hate him, (sob). . . oh God, why does he do this to me, I can't get him out of mind." Or out of the paper.

*Guardian* writers blame Mr Murdoch for Tony Blair's failure to sign instantly up to the euro. *The Guardian* itself holds him daily responsible for lowering the tone of our national life. It won't be long before they claim he invented the millennium bug.

Yesterday, most curiously of all, the paper's Editor celebrated the unregulated vitality of the Net and yet his editorial, which blamed Mr Murdoch for Labour's crisis, attacked the mogul's papers for their unregulatable vitality.

*The Guardian* did not seek to deny that the Labour Party was divided, merely that the fact should not be reported. "The feuding," it noted, "had always been known among Westminster hands, but now Labour factionalism has been dragged into the journalistic mainstream." Naughty Mr Murdoch, letting the readers of his 30-penny-dreadfuls in on all this ministerial wrongdoing. Next thing we know, he will be printing their hotel bills.

*Michael Gove*

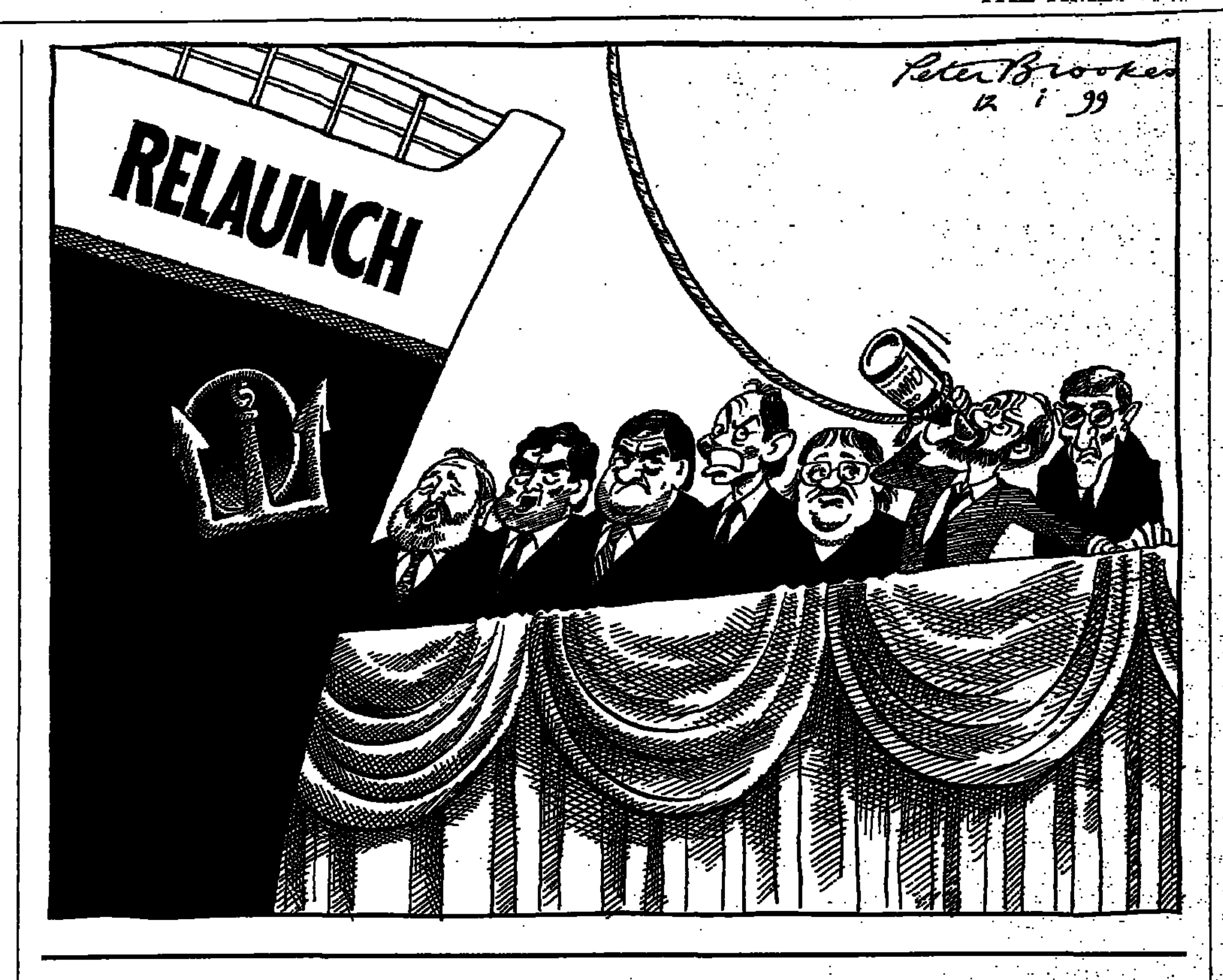
The reason for *The Guardian's* fascination with Mr Murdoch is that he encourages what it claims to promote — free thinking. His newspapers, like the Net itself, are driven by public demand and the creativity of chaotic, cock-snooking, individuals.

In his essay on the Internet yesterday Mr Rusbridger admits to his fascination with Junius, the anonymous 18th-century writer who "*caused so much trouble with* his prose that he was charged with sedition". *The Guardian* is dedicated, like all good newspapers, to causing trouble. Just ask Jonathan Aitken. But it cannot come to terms with the fact that the greatest godfather of mischief in print is Mr Murdoch. And it particularly resents the 18th-century pamphleteering vigour of his newspapers' assaults on its own liberal heroes.

Newspapers today are not yet as savage as Georgian writers or caricaturists were in their denunciation of the pox-ridden, dropsical, thieving politicians of their time. More's the pity. But Richard Littlejohn, Peter Brookes and Matthew Parris do their best.

The knowledge that these hacks all toil in the infernal regions of Wapping may bring Mr Rusbridger out in rash. But his irritation is the sincerest form of flattery.

*michael.gove@the-times.co.uk*




# A divorce of convenience

## All of Labour's futile spinning cannot conceal the real question in the Cook story

Yes, of course I read the Cook-book extract. Avidly, if you must know. But I still wish she hadn't done it, or had disguised it as a witty novel. After all, *cui bono?* The only test of any action is whether it does good; and who can possibly benefit from this post-marital character assassination?

Not Robin Cook, certainly. There are no grounds for thinking that a public list of his faults will make him humble, repentant, and resolved to lead a better life. Not Margaret Cook: despite the money, I suspect that she will come to regret having intemperately breached the privacy of a marriage that encircled 28 years of her life. Nor will their two adult sons reap any advantage. Either they know all there is to know about their father's adulteries and arrogance, or they would rather not. Or, at least, would rather it was not in *The Sunday Times*.

The reputation of marriage as an institution cannot benefit, either. Exposing a partner's infidelities is justifiable because infidelity is a great betrayal and it takes saintlike virtue not to proclaim it. But exposing lesser faults, oddly enough, is far less excusable. Call me old-fashioned, but it seems to me that one of the great things to be said for being married is the combination of company and privacy. Thus one can (occasionally) pass out cold on the dining-room floor *hugging a bottle of brandy*, bad-mouth one's colleagues, dent the car, forget to cancel the papers, suffer what the ladylike doctor calls "superficially stress-related problems . . . in marital relations", have a spot of memory loss, shout at the children, and bang down grudging cheques on the kitchen table with a "harsh stream of expletives", while all the time having the security of knowing that you are among friends — one friend, the best kind — and therefore will not be grassed upon to the newspapers.

This is not to excuse chronically bad or violent behaviour, meriting a walkout. But in the normal way of things we all sober up, apologise to spouse and children, take the tablets, practise smiling into the mirror *and go out again*, image undented, to face the cruel world. I have always thought of this as a permanent contract, part of the marital deal and not to be nullified even by divorce. It is my earnest hope that when I run off with a 22-year-old personal trainer, my spouse will stick to exposing my infidelity, and not start going into shaming details about grey underwear, leaving the knife in the jampot, how I bought expensive three-dimensional jigsaws and never did them, or any harsh streams of expletives I may have let fly about *Times* colleagues in the privacy of a bottle of Laphroaig.

No; she shouldn't have done it. But there is one area in which the book might benefit sober government. This is the story, newly amplified, of what happened at the airport when the Cooks were leaving for their holiday in August 1997.

Mrs Cook's account — never challenged — says that they were "rehabilitated" and full of happy plans when a message came for Mr Cook to ring Alastair Campbell, the PM's press officer. He went quiet; in the VIP lounge, he said: "I am afraid there won't be any holiday. It's cancelled. The *News of the World* is running the story *of my affair with* Gaynor on Sunday. I can't leave the country. I think you and I should part."

*Libby Purves*

There was also a conversation with Mr Blair, she says, in which Cook kept saying "I understand. I understand" and after which he announced "I shan't lose my job". Then, despite his wife's expressed wish, he declared the marriage over. In an interview accompanying the book, Mrs Cook spells it out. "He coldly weighed up the consequences of dropping either her or me and thought that, if he dropped her, she would have made life very difficult for him."

Worse, she also believes that the press secretary and the PM forced a snap decision for "news clarity". "I've no idea what ultimatum he received from Campbell and Blair — but they clearly wanted to avoid the image of his having a bit on the side and dropping her as soon as the affair was revealed. The image of a genuine, impassioned love affair and a stale marriage was one the public might more easily be persuaded to believe and accept."

Now, this is serious stuff, and does belong in the public domain. Most hardnosed pundits seem to accept it as a justifiably macho political decision, but to a normal conscience it is, as Peter Mandelson might put it, gut-wrenching stuff. No husband and wife, however rocky the marriage, should ever be put in such a position by an employer. Yet Mrs Cook's theory is uncomfortably plausible: although abandonment is a step beyond adultery, in the age of serial marriage the idea of a grand passion is easier to sell than the risible cliché of the philanderer who furtively skulks home, in Orwell's unforgettable phrase, with "the juice of the forbidden fruit dripping from his whiskers". It is a matter of record that the "grand passion" line has since been fed to us assiduously — remember Cook's crass line *about his never having* known more happiness, and the "lovely hat for a lovely lady"?

The whole thing smells of black magic, spin-magic, the weaving of glib stories. Robin Cook's career (doomed now, and who cares?) is no longer the issue. Mr Blair and Mr Campbell should level with us. Tell us — or play us the tapes — of exactly what was said to the Foreign Minister at the airport. Did they tell him that image was more important than marriage? That focus groups suggest 23 per cent more sympathy for passionate second marriages than for two-timing liars? Or did they uphold human and family values and calmly suggest that he *make a statement after a thoughtful* holiday? What did he mean by "I understand . . . I understand . . ."?

*It is* not pleasant to contemplate. I never thought I would be nostalgic for Cecil Parkinson, but perhaps it was the lesson of Parkinson which the panicking news-managers remembered. He went back to his wife, remember, after a period of dithering, but it was the dithering that scuppered him (marked by the wonderful Bernard Levin comment that this man "organises his private life in a novel manner, by promising to share his future with whichever lady has most recently spoken sharply to him"). Maybe Labour crudely advised Mr Cook to avoid the *Fatal Attraction* trap, pacify the potential bunny-boiler and rely on the stiff upper lip of his nice Scottish doctor wife to stay buttoned. If this is true, it stinks. If not, tell us so, plainly.

News management is the curse of the age, only just behind its parasitic twin, media intrusion. It should not be necessary for a Government with a big mandate. Mr Brown says that this is the week when new Labour begins to "deliver", and we are promised a daily flurry of policy initiatives. Mr Blair begs to be judged only on the Government's effects, not the characters of its ministers.

OK then: show, don't tell. Stop nagging us, stop feeding us meaningless phrases, stop showing off on television and bombarding us with boringly righteous newspaper columns pretending to be by the PM's own hand. Stop holding silly, sick photocalls in which a gruff bachelor Chancellor helps a reluctant toddler to cut his cake. These things *masquerade* as tools of democracy and open government, while in fact they have the opposite purpose: to *bamboozle and confuse*.

In the name of God, chaps, just do it: pay nurses properly, support schools (not just by distributing yet more expensive doorstops labelled Numeracy Hour). Give up glitz and salons, and listen more carefully to the thousand unglamorous, hardworking lobby groups who from close to the ground can express the problems of hospitals, of prisons, farms, schools, inner cities, families, countryside. Do the boring stuff. Work out a proper policy about whether we are in Europe or not. Find somewhere for the street-sleepers to go, and back the charities which get them back on their feet. Make the trains run properly, or renationalise them. Be nicer to Clare Short. Get Frank Field back. Promote Kate Hoey. Be dour and honest, transparent with the records but sparing of comment.

And when ministers get into human muddles, and the press finds out, just keep your damn spoon out of the pudding.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*

# 'The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold sovereign; and banknotes should be convertible on demand'

**John Laughland**

When politicians start *calling for stability*, free-marketeers should reach for their revolvers. First in the firing-line should be the French President, Jacques Chirac, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi. At the weekend they joined a chorus begun by Gordon Brown and Bill Clinton's Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin. Trying to manage a national economy in a competitive world appears to be too difficult, so they are trying to manage the world to make it less competitive.

They all argue for new international regulation of financial markets. It is not surprising that their answer is more regulation. *But it is odd that liberal economists* concede one of the regulators' premises. They agree that world markets are pretty free, *and thus say there is no problem.* But there is a problem. Markets are not free enough.

The currency speculator George Soros argued last week that global markets were "inherently unstable" and that the IMF should become "something resembling an international central bank". He was echoing recommendations made by Mr Brown and Mr Rubin.

Mr Brown has peppered a series of speeches with references to the need for "a financial architecture for the new global economy", "global financial relation", and "new global structures for the new global age". Mr Rubin has argued that "we must *substantially improve the archi*tecture of the international financial system in order to better prevent crises in the future".

The idea that world financial markets are unregulated is, of course, precisely what free marketeers should like about them. But nothing could be further from the truth. All currencies are pure state creations: they are not titles to any property or commodity and their value depends on how well the government or the central bank manages them. Any state-controlled good is bound to fluctuate wildly in value because the state is a very clumsy regulator of supply. As the Soviet experience showed, state products swing from being in absurd *surplus to chronic deficit*.

The fact that financial instruments and trading technology have developed so greatly is no indication that the market is freer. You might as well argue that the development of burglar alarm technology is evidence of improved public security.

Prior to 1914, broadly speaking, a banknote was a receipt for gold deposited with a bank. The holder could redeem it for that coin. Consequently the currency was a commodity, obeying the normal laws of supply and demand.

Between 1914 and 1971 a series of state-inspired assaults were mounted to destroy this natural *order and to nationalise the* control of money. States simply absolved central banks of their obligation to redeem their bank notes, *in cash. It is just as if a* private bank refused to honour its cheques or denied account holders access to their own money. The introduction of the euro is only the latest example of states colluding to strip citizens of rights, and it is because inconvertible paper currencies are an enormous accretion of state power that EMU is such an important constitutional issue.

Throughout British history — until recently — support for free trade and gold as the currency have been conjugated together. The theories of Adam Smith are incomprehensible without understanding his support for metallically convertible currencies *whose supply did not depend on* the State. Richard Cobden, the Liberal who led the Manchester *laissez-faire* movement, wrote: "*I hold all idea of regulating the* currency to be an absurdity. The currency should regulate itself; it must be regulated by the trade and commerce of the world."

The right response to global regulation is not to support the status quo of state-sponsored world monetary disorder. It is to return to the monetary regime Britain traditionally championed. The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold coin, the sovereign; and banknotes should be issued which are convertible on demand into it. It is only by re-establishing a rule-based monetary regime domestically that markets can be stabilised at the international level.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*



# Lunch hunch

FFION JENKINS seeks dosh from Blair crony. Or so one of those downmarket newspapers might try to make hay from an innocent lunch. There was the wife of the Tory leader (below left), looking delicious, sitting opposite Lord Alli (right), the Labour aesthete and donor, at the Ivy yesterday.

Michael Portillo and Ed Victor looked on, faintly puzzled. So what was the purpose of the rendezvous?

"Waheed is a prominent businessman," Ffion, director of the Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts (ABSA), tells me. "I was updating him on new ideas and was meeting on ABSA business." Hmm. But the Tories could do with a new benefactor . . .




● *THE backbiting continues. Westminster still buzzes with tales about my friend Peter Mandelson, despite his fall from grace. One such story goes that, so besieged by newspaper Johnnies was he over Christmas, that his good friend from Brazil, Reinaldo Avila de Silva, was a prisoner in his house for a few days.*
*The poor thing had to rely on the disgraced minister's snacks, brought up to the boys' room where he was apparently hiding. Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, Peter's able helper, is as appalled as I am by the claim: "As far as I know, there's no one else living in the house."*

## Joint action

DISCREETLY, Jack Straw has plugged the loophole that allowed papers to identify his son as a cannabis seller. The Home Secretary has added a line to the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill preventing young ne'er-do-wells from being named. Papers embarrassed Straw by disclosing William's identity after realising that, as the proceedings were not "active", he could be outed. Ministers, and offspring, can smoke in peace.

● *AFTER the bilious resignation of Sir David Gore-Booth from the Foreign Office, he wants a bank job. His old boss, Lord Hurd of Westwell, trousers £250,000 a year from NatWest Markets, and Sir David might get on the board of HSBC, which has taken over the less than smart Midland Bank.*

## Newsround

SIR NORMAN FOSTER has been asked by Sir John Birt to design a new home for the BBC's news folk at Bush House. Despite having just spent £400 million moving Jeremy Paxman and Co into a modish home at White City, the D-G is now keen to move back to the centre of town. The plans include developing



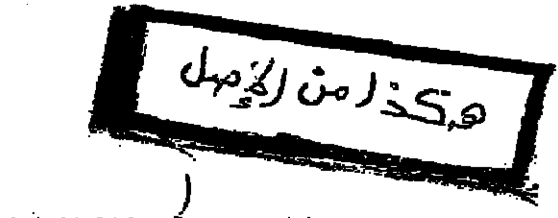

everything on the Aldwych island. "Shepherd's Bush has its charms but they are hidden," Michael Buerk, splendid newscaster, tells me. "We could move to Surrey and commute from Charing Cross."

● *IS Tony Banks bored with his laddish image? The Sports Minister, dressed in a three-piece suit, refused to walk onto a football pitch yesterday for a photocall — because it was "too muddy".*

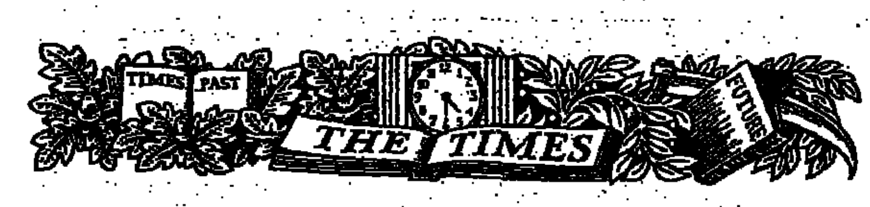
## Tinseltalk

CINEMATIC giants, by Sir Anthony Hopkins: "You've got these 'geniuses', who talk film-school language. The metaphor of the movie. I don't know what they're talking about. You've got Tarantino talking about Orson Welles, Bogdanovich talking about Orson. It's claptrap." Just so.

JASPER GERARD








# A FRESH WIND

## Brown takes the right course, Blair the wrong one

It was supposed to be the relaunch of the Government after the Mandelson affair; instead the Government is already planning the relaunch of Peter Mandelson. Tony Blair is said to be keen to reinstate his disgraced Trade Secretary in about 18 months' time, before the next general election. If he really wants voters to believe that Labour is different from "the last lot", he should remember the errors of the Major administration and determine not to repeat them.

Prime among the annoyances of the last Government was the lack of contrition that ministers showed when they made mistakes. This Government, in this affair, has been just as bad. Mr Mandelson protested on the day he resigned that he had not "done anything wrong or improper". Mr Blair was content to back him.

Yet the former Trade Secretary did something that was clearly both wrong and improper. Whether or not he misled the Britannia Building Society, he certainly neglected to ask his leader's permission to borrow a vast sum from a colleague only months before the election. Presumably he failed to do so for fear that the answer would be "no". And the answer would have been "no" because the arrangement with Geoffrey Robinson would have looked improper in government.

Once he was a minister, Mr Mandelson should have told the Prime Minister immediately of the loan. He should also have told his Permanent Secretary. That he did not do so was wrong, and it was improper. Mr Blair — a man who wears his morals heavily — must surely see this.

If so, why does he not understand the importance of making his former lieutenant pay proper penance for his misdemeanour? Some of Mr Blair's colleagues in the party who are demanding a lengthier sentence have another agenda: they always disliked Mr Mandelson and distrusted his politics. Their problems are their own. It is still possible for those who support Labour's modernisation to argue that Mr Mandelson should spend a respectable period out of office before being considered for an invitation back.

The former Trade Secretary must yet learn to curb the hubris that led to his nemesis. Yet everything that Mr Blair is doing seems designed to bolster the overweaning pride that is Mr Mandelson's weakness. It was because Mr Mandelson thought that he was not subject to the normal rules of politics that he took such a foolhardy risk. To be reinstated within 18 months also breaks the normal rules of politics: it would reinforce Mr Mandelson's delusions of exceptionality.

So does his retention as a party ambassador liaising with Bodo Hombach of the German SPD. Their meeting last week in London was held not at party headquarters or in the House of Commons but at the Cabinet Office, presumably with the help of civil servants. Mr Mandelson must feel that his exile has been no longer than that of his fellow countrymen who had a break over Christmas and new year.

The Prime Minister obviously misses his close friend immensely. He probably still feels dependent upon him for advice on policy, tactics and strategy. Yet, if what he most valued about Mr Mandelson was his judgment, should he not now, after his friend's startling lapse, begin to reassess his sources of advice?

Everyone is now trying to learn lessons from this débâcle. A chastened Gordon Brown, for instance, delivered a word-perfect new Labour speech yesterday with fulsome praise for his friend and rival, Mr Blair. The Prime Minister himself must also think again. With Labour always looking for a fresh wind, he could let Mr Mandelson loose on campaigning before the election. But even "the last lot" would not have countenanced a return to office so soon after such a disgrace.

# REAL GERMANS

## Populist politics meet unpleasant prejudice

Germany's Christian Democrats and their sister party in Bavaria, the Christian Social Union, have been too preoccupied by the wrangling following their defeat in October to offer any challenge so far to Gerhard Schröder's coalition. But at the weekend the two parties confirmed that they are to go ahead with an action that is certain in the long run to damage both parties and provoke the kind of suspicion across Europe that would ill serve Bonn as it shoulders the European Union presidency.

At issue is the emotive question of race. Germany is one of the few countries in Western Europe that still equates citizenship with blood and soil. Under legislation passed in 1913, only foreigners who can lay claim to a German bloodline are entitled to German citizenship. Apart from the unpleasant association with the Nazis' Nuremberg laws on racial purity, the law is patently unsuited to today's conditions.

There are now some seven million foreigners living in Germany, of whom the largest group, the Turks, number over two million. Many arrived as *Gastarbeiter* in the 1960s, welcome hands to do the dirty jobs. Most did not return, and now their children, and even grandchildren, have grown up in Germany, speaking, feeling and acting German. Yet very few have been able to acquire German citizenship; and most are excluded from civic life, confined by a still suspicious population to mental and physical ghettos.

The anomaly of their status has become all the more glaring in view of the huge numbers of "ethnic" Germans who have flooded in from Romania and the former Soviet Union. Most are the descendants of emigrants 200 years ago, speak little or no German and have little cultural affinity with the Federal Republic. They have been granted citizenship, housing, benefits and acceptance. Meanwhile, Bavaria recently deported to Istanbul a 14-year-old boy convicted of various offences even though he was born and bred in Germany.

The Social Democrats, responding to sharp criticism at home and abroad of such discrimination, announced the offer of dual citizenship to foreigners permanently resident. Most Turks want to keep their Turkish passports, partly to be eligible for inheritance in Turkey. But the CSU has begun a campaign, dragging in the CDU, to draw up a petition of protest. The Bavarians speak darkly of "mass immigration" and enfranchising terrorists, especially extremist Kurds. Responding to the xenophobia that shows itself all too often in the burning of asylum hostels and anti-Turkish violence, they are attempting to woo the far Right by exploiting the oft reiterated consensus that Germany is not a destination for immigrants.

These tactics are stupid and dangerous. The CDU, seeking also a populist cause, has balanced its support with a call for better integration of foreigners into German society. But it must know that the rhetoric of race, in Germany in particular, can carry politics to extremes. It should have no part in this wrong-headed appeal to prejudice. The Government should do what it has honourably proposed: grant belated civic equality to all those born and bred in Germany.

# ONCE TWO IS TWO

## And once upon a time children knew the rest

Schoolchildren have moaned about learning their times tables for centuries. An anonymous ditty from the end of the 16th century wails: "Multiplication is vexation, Division is as bad; The Rule of three doth puzzle me, and practice drives me mad." Since then, although pupils' suffering has been lessened by the invention of the calculator and the spread of fashionable education theories, a growing number of children leave school barely able to perform the most basic sums. Yesterday, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, attempted to reverse this trend. Primary schoolchildren are to be taught more mental arithmetic, especially their tables. Calculators will be banned for children under eight. Such common sense is welcome and overdue — even though it might madden, vexate and puzzle pupils and their teachers.

Squeals from the classroom are unlikely to bother the Education Secretary. Mr Blunkett has promised to resign if, by 2002, three-quarters of 11-year-olds fail to achieve the standard expected for their age in mathematics and English. This is a challenging target as only 59 per cent achieved this in last year's maths tests. Mr Blunkett's willingness to fall on his sword shows admirable determination to meet his aim, and his strategy to raise standards reflects an insightful analysis of why standards are so low.

Like other subjects, the teaching of maths has been deconstructed by progressive theorists. Instead of teachers imparting a body of knowledge which pupils learnt, sometimes by rote, these educationists claim that children should discover mathematical skills by experience. The purpose of the subject has gradually switched from being less about proof than investigation. By guesswork and experimentation, pupils are to learn mental arithmetic on an individual voyage of discovery, often guided by a calculator, rather than being taught by a teacher instructing the whole class.

This approach has disastrous consequences. Having failed to master their times tables, young children lack the mental building blocks on which further progress depends. Some school-leavers are unable to add fractions or are ignorant of simple algebra. Without the mental crutch of a calculator, which hides arithmetic processes and magically produces the result to a sum, many children are baffled by such rudimentary challenges as calculating the cost of five items in a supermarket.

Tough measures are needed to cleanse schools of these corrosive theories which have permeated deep into the culture of English education. The Conservatives are right to caution about the dangers of over-zealous meddling in every school's affairs. But they should remember that numeracy, like literacy, is a basic skill which every parent expects their child to acquire, and which too many schools are failing to impart.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Nursing shortage and NHS decline

*From Mr Roy Lilley.*

Sir, In as much as the shortage of nurses is contributing to the present ills of the National Health Service (reports and leading article, January 11), the difficulty is almost entirely of the nurses' own making.

Since the introduction of Project 2000 in 1990, nurse leaders have insisted on an almost exclusive graduate-entry training scheme for their members, effectively ending the apprenticeship approach to training. In consequence, student nurses are dislocated from the NHS, attached to university departments, and spend far less time on the wards. Indeed, they are not even counted as part of the hospital complement.

Furthermore, as young graduates have a range of other careers open to them, nursing becomes increasingly less able to attract students from a world of work offering company cars and no shift-working. There are currently 13,000 vacancies for nurses in the United Kingdom, and in 1996-97, for the first time ever, there was a shortfall in candidates for nurse-training places.

There are approximately 400,000 nurses in the NHS and it is foolish to suppose they should, or could, all be graduates. The time has come for a review of nursing and to hasten the return of the state enrolled nurse, trained from the ranks of the bright and the interested who may fall short of university requirements but could, nevertheless, be trained to do the job out of a sense of vocation.

Elitist nurse leaders see an exclusive group of professionally qualified nurses as a way of levering up pay and improving status. It is a policy that is not realistic and has collapsed, doing irrecoverable damage.

A two-tiered nursing strategy, allowing for highly qualified nurses to work at the high-tech end of nursing and for trained nurses to do the work more conventionally associated with their profession, is a practical solution.

Sincerely,
ROY LILLEY
(Chairman, Homewood NHS Trust, 1991-94),
57 Yockley Close,
Camberley, Surrey GU15 1QQ.
January 11.

*From Dr Stephen J. D. Brecker*

Sir, The current crisis in the National Health Service reflects conditions that are only a little worse than those in which the NHS functions normally. Few clinicians in the front line believe that the service can continue in its current state.

A 6 per cent increase in the demands on a service which functions at 95 per cent capacity will overwhelm it; yet at times like this the public expects and demands a better service — largely because of the failure of successive electorates to demand substantially increased health spending. The turning point has, I believe, arrived, and now the NHS will not be helped by £1 million or even £1 billion one-off winter cash supplements.

A fundamental rethink is required on what we wish the NHS to provide and how it is funded. The service we have is all that we can expect for close to 7 per cent of our gross domestic product; a service which better meets demand requires us to spend more — 9 or 10 per cent would bring us in line with other major EU countries.

If we really want this, we shall have to make sacrifices elsewhere, having first conducted a properly informed public debate (something which has never taken place). We must choose between our health service and other major demands on revenue which might impact on our standing in the world political and defence arena.

As anyone who attends international medical conferences knows, our current world standing is being undermined by our inability to deliver first rate healthcare.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BRECKER
(Consultant cardiologist,
St George's Hospital, Tooting),
82 Regent Court,
1 North Bank, NW8 8UW.
January 11.

## Interest rate cuts

*From Mr J. R. Anderson*

Sir, Economists have noted that interest rates at virtually nil levels have failed to revitalise the Japanese economy. Surprisingly, there has been little recognition that rate reductions could similarly fail here (reports, January 8).

The demographic age profile in the UK means that for a large proportion of the population investment income is a significant factor, particularly in respect of discretionary spending. Reduced interest on savings accounts has an immediate impact and, given an unwillingness to reduce the capital base which underwrites future income, the obvious recourse is to reduce spending. The problem for those dependent on dividend income is compounded by the decision to eliminate or halve the tax credit reclaim.

Interest rate reductions are a crude instrument for economic control and their effects are not nearly as predictable as some might assume.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. ANDERSON,
4 Vardon Drive,
Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2AQ.

## Do term-time holidays matter?

*From the Head of The Duchess's County High School*

Sir, I enjoyed Libby Purves's gentle mockery of the National Association of Head Teachers, David Blunkett, the Downing Street "spokes-prig" and the Blair children's headmaster, on the matter of the one-day term-time holiday ("A note to the head", January 5; see also letters, January 4 and 7): of the possible threats to the attainment of my admirable students, the occasional family holiday in term time does not seem very significant.

A much greater threat arises from the extraordinary inequality of funding in the nation's schools. No student of mine has a single textbook to take home: in some cases we have half a set of textbooks shared between four classes, ie, one book between eight students, and we have one quarter of the average number of computers in English secondary schools.

Not all schools are facing difficulties of this order. For example, the London Oratory School's budget this year is £3.9 million for its 1,350 students (Funding Agency for Schools figures); mine is £2.2 million for my 1,025 students. The simple pro-rata difference is £1.3 million. Allowing for the Inner London weighting and the 15 per cent extra which grant maintained schools receive, there remains a pro-rata difference of nearly £1 million per year.

The Government promised to review the system, but has postponed any action for three years, presumably because redistribution, a word absent from new Labour's lexicon, might alienate newly acquired Labour voters in prosperous areas.

I do not argue that the London Oratory School is over-funded: quite the reverse. I criticise Tony Blair for failing to ensure that the advantages which our taxes provide for his children are enjoyed by children across the country.

Yours faithfully,
G. THOMPSON, Head,
The Duchess's County High School,
Howling Lane, Alnwick,
Northumberland NE66 1DH.
January 7.

*From the General Secretary of the NAHT*

Sir, Libby Purves berates me for criticising parents who totally ignore school policies on families taking holidays during term time.

Head teachers are well aware of the difficulties which some families have finding the time for holidays during the 14 weeks which are available out of term time.

However, the law requires the consent of the head before the child is taken away for up to ten days in any school year. Accordingly, it is untenable to portray heads who attempt to implement school policies as people who are riding rough-shod over parental rights.

It is not the General Secretary of the NAHT who is a "joyless militant" on this issue. The NAHT is simply reflecting the basic fact that thousands of schools have clear policies, endorsed by governing bodies on which parents have a voice, which do not permit family holidays during term time.

These schools understand that absences can damage not only the education of the children on holiday, but also the education of the rest of the pupils in the class.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
General Secretary,
National Association of
Head Teachers,
1 Heath Square,
Boltro Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1BL.
January 6.

*From Mr John Jones*

Sir, Has Tony Blair discovered what Winston Churchill once observed: that "Headmasters have powers at their disposal with which Prime Ministers have never yet been invested"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JONES,
14 Hellings Gardens,
Broadclyst, Devon EX5 3DX.
*petros13@aol.com*
January 5.

## Census plan to 'pry' into religion

*From Dr David Coleman*

Sir, It seems increasingly likely that the 2001 census will require us to state our religious affiliation. This is bad news. Religious faith is a private matter, not to be pried into by compulsory public inquiries.

Most of us, even if religious, do not structure our lives around religion, which is the active pursuit of an increasingly small minority. It follows no important demand from the general public and relates to no general problems.

The main reason for its proposed inclusion is the desire by ethnic minority populations and their pressure groups, particularly Muslims, to be able to number and to label themselves publicly. This may be in their short-term interest, enabling them to argue for more group-related privileges and facilities and exercise power over and above that available to them as citizens.

But it is not in the national interest for the census to encourage people to segregate themselves from the rest of the population and to emphasise their differences from each other. That way lies a new, creeping statistical apartheid which can hardly serve the integration of minorities of immigrant origin or encourage feelings of common citizenship in a secular society. If Muslims and Sikhs want information about their adherents, they can do their own research, as Jews and Roman Catholics have done.

It was bad enough having questions on our ethnic origin in the last (and forthcoming) census. I hope that public opposition to this further divisive proposal will persuade Mr Straw and the Government to think again.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COLEMAN
(Reader in Demography,
University of Oxford),
Department of Applied Social Studies
and Social Research,
Barnett House,
Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2ER.
January 8.

## Castle and Gunter

*From Dr Peter Bartrip*

Sir, Your report on Ray Gunter's resignation as Harold Wilson's Minister of Power ("Minister quits over 'that bitch Barbara Castle'", January 1) records the resigning minister's less than flattering opinion of Mrs Castle, as she then was.

Although you were unable to elicit any reaction from Lady Castle, her views on Mr Gunter are recorded in *The Castle Diaries, 1964-70*, published in 1984.

There, in the true spirit of Labour fraternity, she describes her former colleague as both "contemptible" and "despicable and dangerous".

Yours etc,
PETER BARTRIP,
8/10 Stanton Harcourt,
Witney, Oxford OX8 1RJ.
January 2.

## Honour in politics

*From Mr G. E. F. Williams*

Sir, Michael Gove is quite wrong to suggest (article, January 5) that Lord Carrington resigned as Foreign Secretary because he admitted "wrongdoing", let alone "impropriety". He resigned because he accepted responsibility for a policy that had turned out badly. In other words, he resigned on a point of honour.

In the Age of Spin such a thing is, of course, unimaginable.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. F. WILLIAMS,
8 Bankside,
*Dunton Green*,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2UA.
January 5.

**Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

## Diet and health

*From Mr F. Paul Taylor*

Sir, Mrs Peggy Edwards should happily eat Delia's pastry and custard (letter, December 30; see also letters, January 8). Before the First World War people lived on fatty meat, real cream, cheese and butter and the staple food of the poor was bread and dripping. Yet death from coronary thrombosis was virtually unknown.

As Dr Alan B. Shrank pointed out in his letter (December 28), the idea that saturated fats might cause arterial disease was put forward by Dr Hugh Sinclair in 1951 and, despite much evidence to the contrary, has persisted ever since. In fact, as the eminent nutritionist Dr Ronald Finn pointed out in your columns (letter, May 24, 1994) "the great pandemic of heart disease commenced in the early part of this century" and, aided by the onset of mass smoking during the First World War, has exactly paralelled the consumption of artificially hydrogenated fats, introduced in 1909, ever since.

Reduction of natural saturated fats in our diet doesn't reduce the chance of heart disease. But I avoid artificially hydrogenated fats like the plague.

Yours faithfully,
F. PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 6RU.

## Golden years

*From Mr Stanley Armstrong*

Sir, Mr John Pullan (letter, January 5) need not necessarily resign himself to the onset of old age. On the authority of *The Chambers Dictionary* (1998), in perhaps the only joke in its 1,984 pages, middle-aged is defined as "between youth and old age, variously reckoned to suit the reckoner".

Yours faithfully,
STAN ARMSTRONG,
10 Regency Road, Malvern Link,
*Worcestershire* WR14 1EB.
January 6.

## Dearth of officers of humble origins

*From Mr John Douce*

Sir, Since Major Eric Joyce published his comments on the social "elite" at senior levels of the Army (report, August 4, 1997; letter, August 7, 1997) I have been reading the obituaries published in *The Times*, looking out for senior military officers who achieved success from humble beginnings and/or rose through the ranks. There appear to be very few.

Two I recall were Enoch Powell, a man of truly exceptional intellect, and an admiral who rose through the engineering side of the Royal Navy in the 1960s.

Practically all the distinguished officers who featured were given a good start to their careers by being part of a famous family with good connections and/or educated at an expensive school. Considering their ages and the times in which most of those men made their marks, one should not be surprised that the landed gentry feature prominently.

What surprises me most is that I have not seen as much comment as I would have expected from either serving or recently retired officers pointing out that things have, in fact, changed over recent years.

Are there any examples of generals who started in, say, the Junior Leaders Regiment?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOUCE,
8 Bedford Close,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1HE.
January 8.

## *Addressing postcodes*

*From Mr D. T. Johnson*

Sir, Why use postcodes (letters, December 28; January 1 and 6)? One might well ask. I regularly receive mail not only with the wrong postcode, but also addressed to the wrong person.

These letters are correctly addressed but, despite several protests to the Post Office, I continue to receive them.

Perhaps I should move to a different road.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JOHNSON,
97 London Road,
Oadby (*not* Leicester) LE2 5DP.
*dtj@le.ac.uk*
January 7.

*From Mr Henry J. Pomeroy*

Sir, As postcodes are so important, why are they no longer included in the addresses of those listed in telephone directories?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY J. POMEROY,
Hare & Hounds House,
Stoughton, Somerset BS28 4PT.
*henry.pomeroy@btinternet.com*

*From Mrs Sheila Rowland*

Sir, Hard to believe this, but about two years ago I received a letter on which the only words written were "Silver Winds". The Post Office had written, "Try East Horsley". Clever, but rather spooky.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA ROWLAND,
Silver Winds, Woodland Drive,
East Horsley, Surrey KT24 5AN.
January 8.

*From Mr Christopher Y. Nutt*

Sir, In 1929, when my late father was working at the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, he received a letter from the US in regular time addressed simply, "Mr Nutt, physicist, England".

In modern times I have lived in an area of Pimlico postcoded SW1V. Naturally I, and no doubt many others, found our mail was redirected via Clapham SW4, as the result of the efforts of some redundant classicist in the employ of the Post Office.

*So much for technological progress.*

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER Y. NUTT,
Bancroft Park,
Little Abington, Cambridge CB1 6BQ.
January 6.

## Light in the darkness

*From Mr David Lewis*

Sir, Amid recent discussion about the millennium bug I was not surprised to hear an elderly aunt referring to next year as "the malarium".

Yours faithfully,
D. A. LEWIS,
The Basement Flat,
34 Lime Grove,
Bideford, Devon EX39 4HY.
January 7.

*From Mr Peter Hollindale*

Sir, It is disappointing to see that the Prince of Wales and many churchmen have apparently reacted dismissively to the proposed millennium candle-lighting ceremony. The idea is a uniquely appropriate blend of superstition and practicality.

A candle lit at 11.58pm next New Year's Eve may be very handy two minutes later, when the lights go out. A prayer would not come amiss, either.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HOLLINDALE,
6 Grange Garth,
Fulford Road, York YO1 4BS.
January 5.

# COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
*January 11: The Queen held a Council at 12.30.*

There were present: the Right Honourable Margaret Beckett, MP (President), the Right Honourable Derek Fatchett, MP (Minister of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and the Right Honourable Sir Robin Janvrin (Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen).

The Right Honourable Stephen Byers, MP, received the Seals of Office as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and President of the Board of Trade, and made affirmation and kissed hands upon appointment as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Alex Galloway was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

*ST JAMES'S PALACE*
January 11: The Prince of Wales this morning received The Right Honourable Alun Michael, MP, The Secretary of State for Wales.

## Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as patron, Ocean Youth Club, will visit the London Boat Show, Earls Court, London SW5, at 6.

The Princess Royal, as president, Animal Health Trust, will attend a dinner at Arley Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire, at 7.30.

Princess Margaret, as president, The Guide Association, will give a reception for Queen's Guides at Kensington Palace at 5.

## Party

**Royal Over-Seas League**
Mr Graham Lockwood, Chairman of the Discussion Group of the Royal Over-Seas League, and Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, chairman of the league, welcomed members and their guests at a new year party held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Stephen de Pledge, piano, winner of the accompanist prize in the league's 1998 music competition, played during the evening.

## Dinners

**Woolmen's Company**
The High Commissioner for Australia was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Woolmen's Company held last night at Trinity House. Mr Paul Rippon, Master, presided and Mr Rohan Courtney also spoke. During the dinner the Master presented the Woolmen's Company-Lord Barnby Bursary medal and prize to Miss Deborah Hayes. Among others present were:

The High Commissioner for Tonga, the Earl of Limerick (chairman, Britain-Australia Society), Mr Ian Hartley (managing director, British Wool Marketing Board), the Masters of the Clothworkers', Framework Knitters', Glass Sellers' Scriveners' Merchants of Edinburgh, Merchant Taylors' of York and the Incorporation of Weavers' Fullers' and Shearmen of Exeter Companies and the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company.

**The Athenaeum**
Mr John Simpson was the speaker at an Athenaeum dinner held last night in Pall Mall. Mr Bruce *Hunter was in the chair.*

## Memorial services

**Sir Richard Turnbull**
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Colonel R.A. Coxwell-Rogers, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, at a memorial service for Sir Richard Turnbull, former diplomat, held on Friday at Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. Canon Michael Irving officiated and gave an address.

Mr Rupert Turnbull and Dr Richard Weller, grandsons, read the lessons and Caroline Weller (Mrs Jonathan Knight), granddaughter, read a letter from Sir Richard and with Ms Alexandra Weaver, soprano, and Mr David Mattinson, baritone, sang *Soave sia il vento* from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the *Permanent Under-Secretary of* State and Head of the Diplomatic Service were represented by Sir Michael Pike. The Deputy High Commissioner of Tanzania attended and the Order of St Michael and St George was represented by Sir John Graham, Registrar.

Mr and Mrs Julian Turnbull and Mr and Mrs Ian Turnbull (sons and daughters-in-law), Mrs Alison Weller (daughter), Miss Fiona Turnbull (granddaughter), Mrs Rupert Turnbull, Mr Jonathan Knight and many other friends were present.

***Jocelyn Lady Londesborough***
A memorial service for Jocelyn Lady Londesborough was held on Friday at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge, Isle of Wight. The Right Rev Edward Roberts officiated and gave an address, assisted by the Rev Andrew Menniss who led *the prayers and read the lesson.*

**Air Vice-Marshal Ross Harding**
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Vice-Marshal Ross Harding was held on Friday at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Lower Bemerton, Salisbury. The Rev Alan Archer officiated, assisted by the Rev George Kay, who led the prayers. The Rev John Green, representing the National ex-Prisoners of War Association, read the lesson.

Mr Glyn Evans, Air Marshal Sir Roy Austin-Smith and Mr Russell Harding, son, paid tribute. Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were present.

# Birthdays today

Miss Kirstie Alley, actress, 44; Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 51; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 66; Miss Alison Ball, QC, 51; Sir Charles Ball, company director, 75; Lord Boardman, 80; Mr P.W. Botha, former President of South Africa, 83; *Sir James Bottomley,* former diplomat, 79; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 70; Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 58; Lady Cosgrove, High Court Judge, 53; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 82; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 62; Mr Brendan Foster, athletics commentator, 51; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 55; Baroness Hamwee, 52; Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, 63; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 58; Sir Anthony McCowan, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 73; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 78; the Very Rev Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, 61; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 67; Sir John Rennie, former Governor-General, Mauritius, 82; *Sir Terence Streeton,* former diplomat, 69; Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, 68; Mr Peter Wilson, theatrical producer, 48.


The actress Kirstie Alley, who is 44 today

# School announcements

## Charterhouse

The Long Quarter begins today. Timothy Burke-Murphy remains Head of School and Angeline Abbott *Head Girl. Nicholas Gay* and Lorraine Galliers are Captains of Hockey. The Bishop of Dorking will conduct a Service of Confirmation on Saturday, February 6, at 5.00pm. The Peter Newton Scholarship interviews for entry into the Sixth Form will be held on Friday, *March 5: details from the Admissions Registrar.* Queen's Exeat is from Friday, February 12, to Wednesday, February 17. The Quarter ends on Saturday, March 20.

## Chigwell School

Lent Term at Chigwell starts today and ends on Tuesday, March 30. Entrance *Examinations for 7 to 10* Year Olds and External Sixth Form Candidates Scholarship Examinations will be held on Saturday, *January 16,* while the 11+ Entrance and Harnetts Scholarship Examinations as well as the Interviews for External Sixth Form Candidates *will take place on Saturday, January 23.* The Music Scholarships Auditions and Interviews will be conducted on Monday, February 1. The Art School and Sculptor Court are proud to present 'Fusion' an exhibition of the work of Mary and Anwar Sehmza from Friday, *January 15, until Friday, February 12.* The Middle School Play Lord of the Flies and the Junior School Play The Demon Headmaster will be performed on Wednesday, February 10, and Wednesday and Thursday, February 24 and 25 respectively. The Lent Term Concert takes place *on* Thursday, March 4, followed by a Joint Concert with the Chigwellian Choral Society at St James's, Clerkenwell on Saturday, March 20. The Business Management Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6. Finally the Old Chigwellians *Shrove Tuesday Supper takes place* Tuesday, February 23, and those who wish to attend should contact the Headmaster's Secretary.

## Churcher's College

Spring Term at Churcher's College begins today. The College entrance examination will take place on Saturday, January 30. Half term is from February 13 to February 21. The Captain of Boys Hockey is Simon Freedman and the Captain of Girls Hockey is Sarah Page. It is *anticipated that the new Library* will be completed by half-term and work on the new Science block will begin in January. The four major Sixth Form scholarships have been awarded to Nicola Olle, Frances Curtis, James Martin and Ben Martin. The OCC dinner at the East India Club will be held on Friday, May 14, and bookings can be made through the College office. Term ends on Friday, March 26.

## Dulwich College

The Lent Term begins today. Sam Roberts continues as Captain of *School; Sameer Tanna is Captain* of Hockey and James Harris is Captain of Soccer. The Annual Piano Competition will be held on February 2, adjudicator Miss Clara Taylor, Chief Examiner of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, and House *Music will be held on March 10.* The Friends of Dulwich College Caledonian Ball will be held on February 6. The Guest of Honour at the Cricketers' Dinner on February 26 will be Mr Trevor Bailey, CBE (OA). The Courses and Careers Conference will be on *Saturday, February 27. A concert* of Chamber and Choral Music will be held in the Chapel of the former Royal Naval College, Greenwich on March 24. Half term is from February 13 to 21 and term ends on March 26.

Registered charity No 312755.

## Lockers Park School

The Spring Term begins at Lockers Park today. A number of celebrations to mark this 125th Anniversary Year will commence with Choral Evensong on February 7 (The Bishop of Bedford). Please contact the Headmaster for further details of the Spring Fete, the Ball, the Old Boys' Dinner and other planned events.

## Malvern Girls' College

The Spring Term begins today. Scholarship examinations for September 1999 entry at 11+, 12+ and *13+, and Music,* Art and Sport take place from January 18 to 21. Entrance examinations at 11+ are on January 25 and 26, and at 12+ and 13+ on February 22 and 23. *Half term is February 17 to 21.* The Laurel Fay Instrumental Music Competition takes place on Sunday, February 28. Term ends on Friday, March 26.

## Pocklington School

The Lent Term at Pocklington School, York, begins today. The *Right Rev Gordon Bates, Bishop* of Whitby, will conduct the Confirmation Service at All Saints' Church on Thursday, February 11, 1999. Old Pocklingtonian Evenings this term are to be in Cambridge on Saturday, February 20, and in Newcastle on *Saturday, March 6. Term will end* on Friday, March 26, 1999.

## The Princess Helena College

Spring term begins today and ends on March 26. Hafsat Inuwa is Head of School with Lorna Quince and Idil Peker as her *Deputies. The Junior Scholarship* and Entrance Examinations take place on Saturday, February 6. The Spring Concert will be held on March 20 at 7.30pm in The Princess Alice Hall. Future dates for next term - Summer Ball June 26, Sports Day and Garden Party *July 3, Speech Day July 10* (for further information please contact the school office on 01462 432100).

Royal Russell School, Croydon
A reunion for all Old Russellians who were at Ballards or Russell Hill Schools will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1999. For details *please telephone 0181 657 4433.*

## St Dunstan's College

Term began on Monday, January 11, at St Dunstan's College. Captain of Fives is Richard Mitchell. The 11+ Entrance Examination is on Tuesday, January 19. The Lent Term Concert is on Wednesday, February 3. Dramatic productions include Electra on February 9 and 10 and the Preparatory Department play Oliver runs from March 18 to 20. The Guest of Honour at the Armstrong Society Dinner on March 12 will be Professor Alastair Bellingham, CBE.

# Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.K. Baker and Miss A.J. Bailie**
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Kenneth Baker, of Radwinter, Essex, and the late Mrs Jean Paton, and Alexandra Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John A.H. Bailie, of Palo Alto, California, USA.

**The Hon Percy Bewicke-Copley and Miss T. Chapman**
The engagement is announced between Percy, younger son of the late Lord Cromwell and of the Dowager Lady Cromwell, of Sherborne, Gloucestershire, and Tracey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Raymond Chapman, of Polton Hall, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.

**Mr R.J. Bowers and Miss O.C. Eliott Lockhart**
The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of the late Dr John Bowers and of Mrs Bowers, of Lincoln, Lincolnshire, and Olivia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Eliott Lockhart, of Fulham, SW6.

**Mr N.A. Carr *and Miss Z.P. Litherland***
The engagement is announced between Neil, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Carr, of Paignton, Devon, and Zoë, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs Rupert Litherland, of East Claydon, Buckinghamshire.

**Mr R.W. George and Miss S.A. Chandler**
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of the late Mr Edgar George and of Mrs George, of Ledbury, Herefordshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of the late Mr Eric Chandler and of Mrs Chandler, of *Chiswick,* London, W4.

**Mr B.E. Nalbantis *and Miss T.E.L. Bilton***
The engagement is announced between Basil, son of the late Mr John Nalbantis, of Veria, Greece, and of *Mrs* Kyveli Couyou, of Vanderbijlpark, South Africa, and Tanya, daughter of Mr Godfrey Bilton, of Monte Carlo, Monaco, and Mrs Anne Passey, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

**Mr M.R. Chinnery and Miss A.J. Simpson**
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr and Mrs Ray Chinnery, of Gorey, Jersey, and Amber, elder daughter of Mrs Sunny Hall, of Southampton, Hampshire.

**Mr M.R.G. Dumbell and Miss A.J. Simmons**
The engagement is announced between Marc, son of Mr and Mrs George Dumbell, of Wassenaar, Netherlands, and Annabel Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Simmons, of Richmond, Surrey.

**Mr S.P. Edwards and Miss S.F. Wild**
The engagement is announced between Sammy, son of Mr and Mrs S. Edwards, of Edgware, *Middlesex, and Sarah, daughter of* Mr and Mrs P.D. Wild, of Northwood, Middlesex.

**Mr J.A. Fielding and Miss K.A. Dunwoody**
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr P.B. Fielding, of Cambridge, and Mrs J.R. Fielding, of Teddington, Middlesex, and Kellie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Dunwoody, of Cape Town, South Africa.

**Mr E.S. Gleason and Miss P.J. Robinson**
The engagement is announced between Eric, son of the late Mr Michael Gleason and of Mrs Sheridan Heideman, of Oceanside, California, and Pippa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Robinson, of Aldsworth, West Sussex.

**Mr H.W.T. Hare and Miss I. Le Maitre**
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hare, of Crediton, Devon, and Isabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Giles Le Maitre, of St Andrews, *Fife.*

**Mr N.O.N. Hughes and Miss K.L. Sankey**
*The engagement is announced* between Neil, elder son of Mr Noel Hughes, of Belmont, Belfast, and the late Mrs Frances Hughes, and Karen, daughter of Colonel and Mrs John Sankey, of Gibraltar.

***Mr J.C. Hassall* and Miss J.A. Handler**
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr John Hassall, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and Mrs Eva Atkinson, of Chicago, Illinois, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Handler, of Romiley, Cheshire.

**Mr H.H.W. Keegan and Dr S.J. Hickman**
The engagement is announced between Harry, elder son of Mr William Keegan and Mrs Tessa *Keegan,* both of Islington, London, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Hickman, of Bredgar, Kent.

**Mr N.H.A. MacGregor and Miss F.M.N. Graham**
The engagement is announced between Ninian, younger son of Brigadier Sir Gregor and Lady MacGregor of MacGregor, of Bannatyne, Newtyle, Angus, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Graham, of Chute, Wiltshire.

**Mr W.K.G. *Monroe* and Miss J.W. Elliot**
The engagement is announced between Bill, elder son of the late Mr Kenneth Monroe, and of Mrs Monroe, of Llanychan, Denbighshire, and Jane, daughter of the late Mr G.P. Elliot and of Mrs *Eileen Elliot,* of *Virginia Water,* Surrey.

**Mr R.J. Smethurst *and Miss J.A. Ferguson***
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs John Smethurst, of *Spital, Wirral, and Jeannie, daughter* of Dr and Mrs Roger Ferguson, of Oxton, Wirral.

## Marriage

**Mr J.A. Baldwin and Miss H. Roberts**
The marriage took place *on January 11,* at Blakes Hotel, London, SW7, between Mr Jeremy Ashley Baldwin, of Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, and Miss Helen Roberts, of Llangefni, Anglesey.

## Sir John Stephenson

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Stephenson will be held at The Temple Church, EC4, on Thursday, January 21, at 5pm.

## Ratcliffian Association

The 1999 London Dinner will be held in The Crypt at St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, on Friday, February 12. Booking forms from The Secretary, 14 Ely Place, London EC1N 6RY (tel 0171 405 1061, fax 0171 405 7440).

## University news

**Leeds**
Honorary degrees have been awarded to the following:
Jeremy Paxman, broadcaster, journalist and author; Murray Perahia, pianist; Jack Straw, Secretary of State for the Home Department; Dr John Walker, chemist.

# Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Jean Baptist van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; John Winthrop, first Governor of Massachusetts, Groton, Suffolk, 1588; Lazaro Spallanzani, chemist, Modena, Italy, 1729; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, *Muzaffarpur, India, 1860, Jack* London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, Budapest, 1878; Curbastron Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, *Calais,* 1894.

DEATHS: Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Bath, 1897; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 1976.

The Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was founded, 1866.

The British-Zulu War began, *1879.*

The London Co-op opened the first supermarket in London at Manor Park, 1948.

A Boeing 747 jet landed at Heathrow airport after its maiden transatlantic flight *from New York,* 1970.

# PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

**You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Isaiah 12.1 (NRSV).**

## BIRTHS

AZUMI - On January 5th at The Portland Hospital to Mie and Takashi, a son, Ryu.

BARRETT - On January 6th, 1999 at The Portland Hospital to Stephanie (née Bates) and Chris, a beautiful daughter, Isobel Siena.

BONSER - On January 3rd 1999, in Singapore, to Barbara (née Fuller) and Andrew, a son, Alastair William, a brother for Adam.

CORDEN - On Friday January 8th 1999, to Mary (née Reid) and Paul, a son, James Alexander.

JOHASHEN - Henry Carlton, born 10th January 1999 to Derek and Victoria Johashen, grandson to Keith and Margaret Peacock and also to Carlton Johashen, with love.

KING - On January 6th at The Portland Hospital to Lynne (née Flavell) and Ian, a daughter, Imogen Sophia, a sister for Oliver.

LANGLEY - On January 9th at Queen Charlotte's, Chiswick to Helen (née Holland) and John, a son, Joseph Frederick. Special thanks to Fiona.

McKENZIE - On 29th December 1998 at Lerwick to Karen (née Wilson) and Gregor, a daughter, Lilli Constance.

MORRISON - On January 9th at The Portland Hospital to Charlotte (née Dobree) and Hugh, a son, Alastair McLeod.

NICOL-GENT - On January *5th 1999, to Joanne (née* Greaves) and Philip, a daughter, Sophie Eliza.

OTTINO - On January 5th, at Oxford, to Joanne Bass and Simon Ottino, a son, Solomon Tyler Bass.

PINI - On January 8th at The Portland Hospital to Marion (née Overberg) and Adrian, a daughter, Giorgina Ada Catharina.

REID - On December 23rd to Nicki (née Barclay Jacobs) and Robert, a daughter (Olivia Madeline), a sister for Hugo and Alexander.

SUGARMAN - On January 4th at The Portland Hospital to Livia (née Sharpe) and Lawrence, a daughter, Gabriella Georgia.

WALSH - On December 21st 1998, to Melanie (née Parkin) and James, a daughter, Elizabeth Sarah Honor, a sister for James.

## BIRTHS

WALTERS - On January 7th at The Portland Hospital to Emily (née Phelps Brown) and Patrick, a daughter, Jemima Alice, a sister for Hugo.

WINFIELD - On January 6th at The Portland Hospital to Martha and David, a daughter, Rachel Fels, a sister for Max.

## DEATHS

BECKETT - Margaret Alice (née Essex), on Saturday 9th January, peacefully at home with all her family. Beloved wife of Jack, much loved mother of Ann, Peter and Fiona and adored Granny of Sophie, Samuel and Alice. Service at St. John's Church, Littlewick Green on Wednesday 20th January at 1.00pm followed by cremation (immediate family only). Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The Children's Society or Camp Mohawk, Wargrave, can be sent c/o E. Sargent & Son, 13 The Colonnade, Maidenhead SL6 1QL.

BOWDEN - Announcing the death of Mrs Sheila Margaret Bowden (Hawkins), painter and illustrator, beloved mother and grandmother, died 10th January. Cremation 10.00am on Thursday 14th January at Putney Vale Crematorium.

CHRISTOPHERSON - John Clifford. On January 8th 1999, peacefully at Walton Heath Manor in his 90th year. Much loved father of Michael and Helen, fond grandfather and great-grandfather. Private Funeral. Thanksgiving Service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Leigh, nr Reigate on Friday, January 22nd at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome. Donations if desired to The SABC Clubs for Young People, c/o Stoneman Funeral Services, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, RH1 6AZ.

CLARK - On 9th January 1999. Charles James Clark O.B.E., M.A., at his London home, also of Old Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, formerly of Bologna and Recco, Italy. Beloved friend of Peter Boggis for 36 years. Funeral will take place at St. James's, Sussex Gardens, W2, on Friday 15th January at 3.30pm. No flowers please, but donations to Samaritans *if desired.*

COFFIN - Janet, née Wrigley, born June 4th 1896, died January 7th 1999, aged 102 at Park House, Martinstown, Dorchester, Dorset, widow of Major Daniel M Coffin, R.H.A., mother of Jane and Georgia, dearly loved grandmother of 8 and great grandmother of 15.

COOKE - (Captain RN) Godfrey Arthur, died peacefully on 8th January 1999. Beloved husband of Pam and father of Shirley, Vicky, Arabella and Gale. Funeral on 20th January at 3.30pm at the West Norwood Crematorium, Norwood Road SE27. Enquiries to Yeatman and Sons, 384 Norwood Road, SE27 9AA. Tel: 0181 670 1127.

COOKE - Dr Alexander Macdougall peacefully on January 5th at St Lukes Hospital, Oxford in his 100th year. Family funeral, memorial service to be announced later.

CRACE - On January 8th 1999 at The Royal Brompton Hospital, The Reverend John Allan Crace DSC aged 77, loved and loving husband of Rosemary, father of Veronica, Sue and John and grandad of Anna and Robbie. Cremation Private. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at All Saints Church, Steep, Petersfield on Wednesday January 27th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to RELATE Portsmouth, Dugald Drummond Street, PO1 2BB.

DEVOY - Brian suddenly on January 2nd aged 64, beloved husband of Amy and dearest father of Michael, Annie and Katie. Funeral at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 130 St. Margaret's Road, Twickenham on January 15th at 1.15pm, followed by burial at Richmond and *East Sheen Cemetery.*

DRIVER - Marjorie Mary: On 7th January aged 87, much loved widow of the late Robert Blake Driver, mother of Sally and Nick and grandmother of Andrew, Katy, Emily and William. Following a *private cremation,* a service of thanksgiving will take place at 3.00pm on Friday 15th January at St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey. No flowers, but if you wish, donations to the Princess Alice Hospice, c/o James & Thomas Ltd, Mill *Road, Cobham, KT11 3AL.*

DRURY - On 8th January 1999, while staying with his daughter, at Cefn Park, Wrexham, Walter Neville Dru Drury, TD, for 61 years the very dearest husband of Rae, father of Martin, Vanessa, Neil and Lois and greatly loved by his 12 grandchildren. Funeral private. No flowers, but donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o Caldecotts, 12 Penybryn Wrexham, LL13 7HY. Tel: 01978 261764. Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Hever, Kent, on Friday 29th January at 12 noon.

FORD - On January 7th 1999, peacefully at home, Charles Edmund Ford F.R.S., aged 86 years. Dearly loved husband of Jean, much loved father of Peter, Michael, Christopher and Brian, also a greatly loved grandad. Funeral Service Private. Thanksgiving Service at St. Nicolas' Church, Abingdon on Monday January 18th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Edward Carter (FD), 107 South Avenue, Abingdon, OX14 1QS.

FOSTER-BROWN - Rear Admiral Roy C.B. peacefully on January 8th, aged 94. Dearly loved husband of Joan for sixty five years, much cherished father of Christopher and Robin and special "Baddad" to Mark, Tania, Anthony, Michael and Claire. Private cremation. *Memorial service to be* announced.

FRASER-WILSON - At Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Thursday 7th January 1999, Caroline Louise aged 74 years. Survived by son David, grandchildren *Emma, Caroline and* Richard, and daughter-in-law Sue. Much loved and sadly missed. Funeral Service on Friday 15th January at Aberdeen Crematorium (East Chapel) at 2.40pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Multiple Sclerosis Society.

GORDON - On 8th January, peacefully aged 87 years, Cecilia (née Coote and formerly Bowman) of Alnwick, beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Alnwick Cemetery Chapel on Monday 25th January, at 2.00pm followed by interment. Flowers if desired to Alistair Turner Funeral Services, Tel: (01665) 510699.

GREEN - John, late of Bransgore, peacefully on January 7th at the Chalfont Lodge Nursing Home, Chalfont St Peter, aged 90 years. Beloved husband of the late Ruth, much loved father of Jane and Sally and grandfather to Charles and Harriet. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, Bucks, on Saturday, 16th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to The Friends of Sopley Church c/o Wright Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 0BE.

GREER - Henry George Villiers (Harry), peacefully at home surrounded by his family on January 8th. Born Ceylon 1911. Served *1/14 Punjab Regt, POW* Malayan Campaign WWII. Funeral at 12 noon, January 18th at Thornford Parish Church, near Sherborne, Dorset. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie c/o W S Brister & Son, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

HILTUNEN - Tuula died peacefully on 8th January at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. An interment service will be held for the family in Finland.

JANKEL - Alexander passed away peacefully on 10th January, aged 91, after a short illness. Adored husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He lived a wonderfully happy life which has been an example to us all.

JONES - R. Gerallt, author and educator, of 'Leri' Dol y Bont Borth Aberystwyth, died peacefully at his home after a long illness on January 9th 1999. A very loving husband and father, he will be so sadly missed. Family funeral in Llaniestyn on Thursday 14th January 1999. Family flowers only please. Those wishing to give thanks for Gerallt's life are invited to contribute towards Christian Aid through the caring hands of DJ Evans Funeral Directors, Penrhyncoch, Aberystwyth. Telephone: 01970 820249. A Thanksgiving Service will be arranged at a later date.

JONES - Christopher died on 5th January. Journalist and an Arsenal fan. He will always be remembered by Derek, Ann, Nick, Mark and Tanya. Service of Thanksgiving at St Anne's, Limehouse, Commercial Road, E14 on Thursday 14th January at 11.00 o'clock. Family flowers only but please send donations in Chris' Memory to GUCH Fund c/o Dr Jane Somerville Royal Brompton Hospital Sydney Street, London SW3.

KIBBLE - Mary Innes of Chalfont St. Giles, died on 8th January in hospital. Sister of Joan Reyburn, aunt of Anne Wood and Stephen Reyburn. Funeral to be held at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham on Thursday 21st January at 12 noon. Flowers if desired to HC Grimstead Ltd, or donations to Blesma c/o HC Grimstead Ltd. 01494 434393.

LINDLEY - Prue. Peacefully, after a short illness at Cheltenham General Hospital on January 7th aged 82 years. Much loved aunt of Christopher, David, Lyn, Andrew and Anthony. Prue will be sadly missed by all her relatives and many friends. Funeral at St. James Church, Chipping Campden at 12 noon on Thursday, January 14th. All enquiries to Philip Tomlins Ltd. 01386 763133.

MACKAY - Marjorie Ispel (née Boyd) of Sherwood, Nottingham died peacefully in hospital on 7th January. Will be sadly missed by Joanna, Liz, *Neil, Sarah and all her* grandchildren. Cremation at Bramcote, Nottingham on Friday 22nd January at 9.30. Family flowers only please - donations if desired to a charity of your choice. Enquiries to Baguley Bros 0115 9605197.

MILLAR - Donald Edgar. Adored husband of Maggie and father of Mary-Ann. Died peacefully after a prolonged illness at Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield on the 7th January (aged 66). Don worked for many years in the Oil Industry with Shell, BNOC and latterly as an Independent Consultant, he was well respected in the industry. The funeral will be held 10.00am, Tuesday 19th January at New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium, Brunswick Park Road, New Southgate, London N11 1JJ. A reception will be held immediately after the funeral at West Lodge Park Hotel, Cockfosters Road, Herts EN4 0PY. Family flowers only please, but donations to Chase Farm Hospital are welcomed, (mentioning that the donation is in *relation to Donald Millar),* via The Chief Executives Office, Chase Farm Hospital, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 8JL.

MILLBOURN - Mary Ellsmore (Ells), suddenly in hospital *on January 6th, aged 87.* Dearly loved widow of Joseph Ralph, mother of Mary and Michael and grandmother of Christopher, Carey, Neil and Tiffany. Private cremation.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

MORGAN - Winifred Florence passed away peacefully 5th January 1999 at East Surrey Hospital, previously of The World Health Organisation and Matron of Manchester and Glasgow Royal Infirmaries, also British Red Cross Society, dedicated her life to nursing. A much loved sister and aunt. Funeral Service at Stonemans, Doron Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, on Friday 15th January at 1pm. Tel: 01737 763456

MORRELL - Christine, sister to The Right Reverend J H L Morrell and Mary Morrell. Died peacefully in the morning of Sunday 10th January. Much loved as Sister Lilian at St Thomas' Hospital and by many devoted friends. Funeral in the Chapel of St Katharine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage at 11.00 am Wednesday 20th January 1999. No flowers, contributions to St Thomas Hospital Childrens Ward.

OWEN - Margaret Jean (Peggie) née Neatby, peacefully at home in Whitchurch on Thames on 7th January 1999, aged 94 years. Beloved wife of D.G.M. Owen, much loved mother of Henry Neatby Owen *(deceased) and of* Elizabeth and loving grandmother of Marcus, Kira and Jeremy. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium on Monday 18th January at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, donations for any childrens' charity.

PAGAN - Barbara died on 9th January 1999 after an illness borne with courage. Former Headteacher of Enfield County School and Education Director of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. Much loved and missed by family, friends and colleagues. Funeral private. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the North London Hospice, 47 Woodside Avenue, N12 8TF. Thanksgiving Service to be announced.

PARKINSON - Patricia Frances, formerly of Great Triley, peacefully on *January 8th 1999,* aged 88. Beloved aunt, great-aunt and cousin. Family cremation followed by service of Thanksgiving at St. Teilo's Llantilio Pertholey, Abergavenny, on Wednesday 20th January at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to the Hunt Servants Benefit Society, Parsloes Cottage, Bagendon, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 7DU.

PIPE - H.Douglas (Dougie) on 6th January. Much loved husband of Louisa. No mourning and no flowers. Cremation at Mortlake, Tuesday 19th January at 12.30pm.

RAYNOR - On January 9th 1999, at Newton, Marendera, Zimbabwe: Mary Alice (née Lampard), much loved wife of Peter, mother of Humfrey, Giles, Amanda and Philippa, grandmother of Duncan, Angela, Geraldine, John, Timothy, Jennifer and Emily, and mother-in-law of Penny, Debbie and Chris.

REES - *Jamie, peacefully* after a short illness, on 5th January. *Diana's* beloved husband for 50 years, loved and respected father, Grancher and friend. Family cremation. Thanksgiving later. No flowers, but if desired donations to RAF Benevolent Fund, or bulbs for planting in Amen Corner, Fawkners, where he wanted his ashes scattered.

REILLY - Gavin Walter Hamilton. Died suddenly after a short illness in Hermanus, South Africa, 10th January 1999. Greatly loved by Jane, Jani, Georgina, Giles, Alexander, Nicholas, Matthew and Gregory.

ROBERTS - Suddenly on January 7th 1999, Martin Roberts F.R.C.S. of Woodgreen, Woodcross Narberth. Beloved husband of Sarah and adoring father of Tom, William and Edward. Funeral Service 12.30pm, Thursday January 14th, at St. John's Church, Templeton, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to launch a fund to *help locally abused* children c/o Mr G.E. Phillips, Bryn-y-Fran, 26 Crow Hill, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 2HL, to whom cheques should be made payable. Enquiries to W & M.J. Rossiter & Sons, Funeral Director, The Old Rectory, The Norton, Tenby, Pembrokeshire. Tel: 01834 843160.

SOMERVILLE McALESTER - On January 5th 1999, Joan Dorothy (née Penny), aged 82 years. Widow of Angus, beloved mother of Ian and Mary and grandmother of Rory, Craig, James and Kirsty. Funeral Service West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington on Thursday 14th January, 1999 at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations for R.N.L.I. may be sent c/o F.Dewey Ltd, 26, River Street, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 5DH.

STANBURY - Freda beloved wife of Philip, adored mother of Marlene, Penny, and Anthony and much loved mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away peacefully at the King Edward VII Hospital London on Thursday January 6th. The funeral has already taken place.

STEWART - Margaret, on 7th January 1999 after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Major Richard (Dick) Stewart, The Border Regiment and Senior Assistant Secretary of the Law Society. Much loved mother of James, Peter and the late Hugh. A devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral, Friday 15th January in Harrogate. Flowers welcome. Enquiries to Swainsons. 01423 504571.

TARRANT - Evelyn after years of suffering aged 96. Once on the staff of Cheltenham Ladies College and St Pauls Girls School, London. Funeral service on Thursday 21st January at St. Margarets Church, Buxted at 2.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Cooper & Son, 11 New Town, Uckfield tel: 01825 763763.

TORRANCE - Bob, Physiologist and Emeritus Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, died peacefully in hospital 8th January 1999. Loved by his wife Margaret and sons Mark and Paul. Funeral at Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford on Friday 15th January at 11.00 am. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QC.

TRAIL - Basil A J Trail peacefully on 9th January aged 78 years.

VAUGHAN-EVANS - Dan on 2nd January 1999 peacefully at Llandudno Hospital in his 88th year. At his request no funeral service. Inquiries to *Howell Jones* and Co. Solicitors 01492 640277.

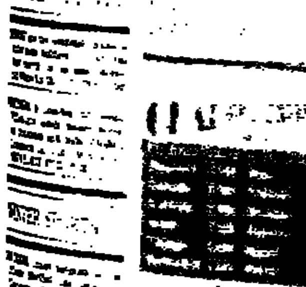
WILLIAMSON - The Funeral of Ruth, who was killed in Yemen, will take place at Warriston Crematorium, Lorimer Chapel, Edinburgh on Friday 15th January 1999, at 2.00pm. All friends, relatives and *colleagues are invited to* attend. Further information from William Purves Funeral Directors (Tel: 0131 447 5858).

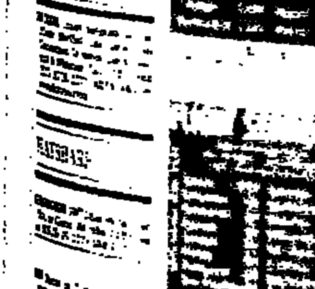
WILSON - Sir Reginald. The Funeral Service previously announced for 11.30am on Saturday January 16th at Golders Green Crematorium, will now take place at St. Columbas Church of Scotland, Pont Street SW7, at 11.00am on Wednesday 20th January followed by a private cremation at Mortlake Crematorium.

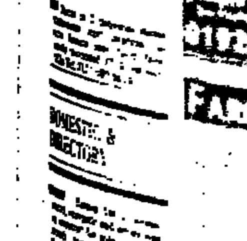
YU - Dr. Mark Meng Lun passed away peacefully on 7th January 1999 will be sadly missed by his wife May Ying, sons, Dominique and Siao Hong, grandchildren Nahema and Sanjay and loving family as by his friends, students and patients. Service 13th January 2.00pm at Manor Park Chapel 50 Whitta Road, London E12 5DA.













هكذا من الإصل

OBITUARIES

# COLONEL ANTHONY SIMONDS

**Colonel Anthony Simonds, OBE, MI9 officer, died on January 7 aged 89. He was born on November 21, 1909.**

Anthony Simonds, who served under Orde Wingate in Palestine and Ethiopia, later did his best to repair one of the stupidest British blunders of the Second World War and organised the rescue of hundreds of prisoners of war in Italy. He was mentioned seven times in dispatches and Wingate put him up for a DSO for what he did in Ethiopia. But Wingate had enemies in GHQ Cairo, and Simonds was not the only member of his team not to get the recognition he deserved.

By the summer of 1943, when Mussolini was deposed, Simonds was a lieutenant-colonel in command of the Balkans and Middle East section of MI9, the secret escape and evasion service. Behind barbed wire in various Italian camps were almost 80,000 Allied prisoners, the majority British and Commonwealth soldiers captured by Axis forces in North Africa. When Marshal Badoglio formally surrendered on September 8, five days after the British had landed in the toe of Italy, their guards simply walked away.

This should have been the cue for hundreds of escape parties to make their way towards the Allied lines. Instead, in most of the camps the senior British officers ordered the PoWs to stay put and await rescue. They did this because they had been told to do so by MI9's headquarters in London in coded messages picked up on the camps' clandestine radios. The historian and former intelligence officer M. R. D. Foot has suggested that MI9 was doing the bidding of the tidy-minded Montgomery, who did not want his battlefield cluttered up with ragged bands of escapers.

A few thousand insubordinate souls guessed that the Germans were likely to get to them much faster than the Allies and bolted. Some dithered and still got away. Among the luckier ones was a Captain Balfour of the Scots Guards, an officer privy to the secret MI9 order, who at the last moment hid on a rafter while the Wehrmacht emptied the rest of his camp into trains for Germany.

Balfour got to the little Adriatic port of Termoli, the Eighth Army's most forward position, where Simonds had set up the vanguard of his prisoner rescue operation. For the first time Simonds heard about the astonishing MI9 order from London and realised he would have to act quickly before the Germans rounded all the prisoners up.

Under his command he had what must have been one of the most heterogeneous units the Allies ever put into the field. There were three Italian Navy motor launches whose crews had only recently been exchanging shots with the Royal Navy, 13 Italian fishing boats with mixed RN and Italian crews, two squadrons of SAS, one of them Free French, a company of British paratroopers and a contingent of first generation Italian-Americans on loan from the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

His officers included an amateur jockey who had won the Grand National, a London stockbroker, a newspaper illustrator, a Twining tea taster, a French Communist who had fought Franco, the former Polish Ambassador to Rome, the Prince of Calabria, the son of the Governor-General of the Sudan, a couple of Etonians and a jazz-loving Harvard professor.

Simonds's tactics were simple. Teams of parachutists were dropped near the known sites of PoW camps. They shepherded escapers to the coast. In case they missed the rendezvous or were chased away by German patrols, the SAS parties taught the escapers recognition signals to make out to sea.

Night after night Simonds would crawl along the coast in one of his vessels, searching for waifs and strays. Sometimes boats were lured into traps and blown to pieces. One night Simonds spotted some lights that were too faint and irregular to make out whether they were the right signal. His vessel went as close inshore as it dared and lowered Simonds and three others in a small boat. On the beach were a bunch of men who shouted they were British. "Identify yourselves by whistling *The British Grenadiers*," demanded Simonds. A faint but recognisable rendering came back. It turned out to be an exhausted party of 15 escapers who for the second successive night were making their feeble signals with a candle.

Sometimes Simonds ventured further inland. Once he helped capture a German officer who had been persuaded by one of his Italian-Americans that they were black marketeers with whisky. "Not a correct MI9 operation," Simonds noted in in his unpublished memoirs, "but great fun!"



Simonds in Ethiopia in 1941 as part of Wingate's Gideon Force

Anthony Charles Simonds, the son of an officer killed on the Somme, came from an old and wealthy Berkshire family with interests in banking and brewing. He was educated at Wellington College and in 1931 was commissioned into the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was much admired for his boxing skills and reached the army championships four times at featherweight.

His other talents were perhaps more in keeping with his passion for chess, for he soon showed an aptitude for intelligence work. During the Arab uprising in Palestine in the late 1930s he worked at GHQ Jerusalem and sometimes fed tip-offs to Wingate's Special Night Squads which resulted in deadly ambushes. Complaints from senior officers' wives that young Captain Simonds kept a permanent female companion in his bungalow were dismissed by his immediate superiors on the ground that this "moral turpitude" might be essential to his duties.

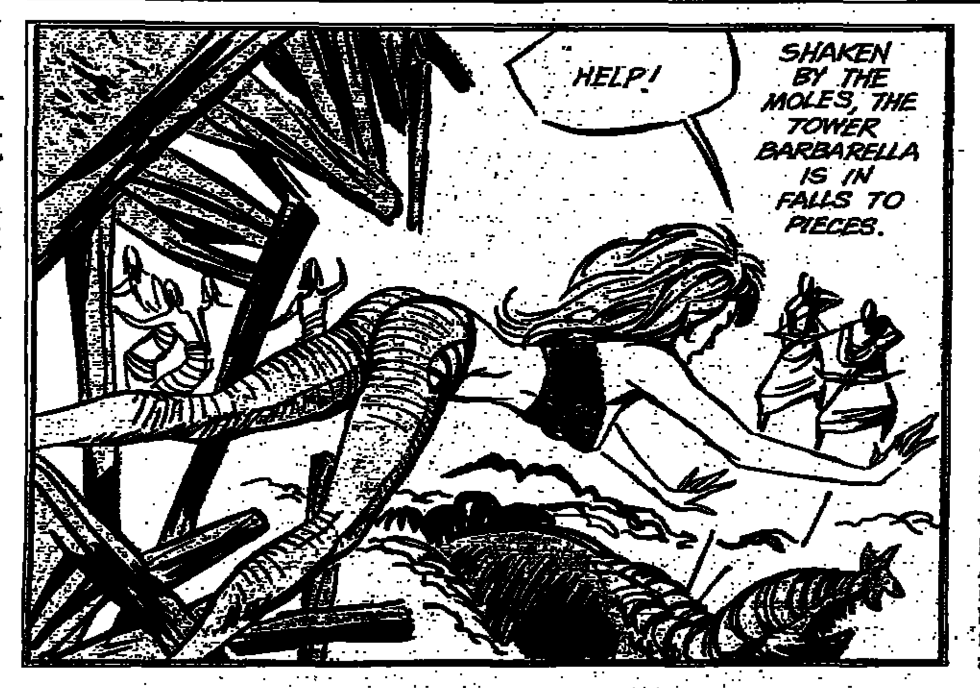
In November 1940 he was at Wavell's headquarters in Cairo when Wingate asked him if he would parachute into Italian-occupied Ethiopia, where the British were giving Haile Selassie's guerrillas the little military assistance they could then spare. Simonds, who never made any secret of his fear of parachuting, said he would rather walk, and trekked most of the way from the Sudanese border to the source of the Blue Nile.

For the next six months, with shoulder length-hair and a beard down to his chest, Simonds led a barefoot column of Ethiopians. As part of Wingate's Gideon Force he helped to tie down thousands of Italian troops while conventional British forces attacked from Sudan and Kenya. Woefully equipped by indifferent staff offices in Khartoum, he improvised brilliantly. He convinced the enemy that cigarette tins were landmines, organised the repair of an old muzzle-loading cannon to fire round shot, and turned back an Italian surprise attack by using a flare pistol to transform some dry scrub into a wall of fire. When, towards the end of the campaign, he was ordered, protesting, back to Cairo, the paymaster's department insisted that he was not entitled to field service allowance, since he had not been in the field at all but merely "behind enemy lines".

From September 1941 until the end of the war he was in charge of all escape and rescue operations in the Balkans. Although Turkey was officially neutral he ran a fleet of armed caiques into the Aegean islands from a port near Izmir. Shortly before the German surrender he was almost killed while flying to Turkey from Cyprus when a German fighter from occupied Rhodes attacked the unarmed RAF transport he was in. To shake off the fighter the pilot, who like all the aircrew had an oxygen mask, took his unpressurised plane as high as he could. Simonds passed out.

In 1952 he left the Army and became a flower-grower in Cyprus where, in 1943, he had married his first wife, Eirwen Llewelyn Jones, with whom he had two daughters before they were divorced in 1969. Simonds remained on the island throughout the 1955-59 Eoka rebellion. But when the Turks invaded Cyprus in 1974 his home in Kyrenia was destroyed. Evacuated by the Royal Navy, he later returned to the island and, with his second wife, Barbara Ayre, set up home in the village of Ayia Anna. In aid of Anglican church funds he ran a secondhand bookshop in the grounds of St Paul's in Nicosia and was often to be seen sitting outside it wearing a Panama hat and a Special Forces Club tie. In 1997, suffering from the onset of Alzheimer's disease, he moved back to Britain.

He is survived by his second wife Barbara and the two daughters from his previous marriage.




# JEAN-CLAUDE FOREST

**Jean-Claude Forest, French cartoonist, died on December 30 aged 68. He was born on September 30, 1930.**

THOUGH he created many cartoon characters, Jean-Claude Forest is best known for *Barbarella*, his sex-mad Sixties' spacegirl. In Forest's farrago of amiable nonsense, the semblance of scientific exactitude which had been the feature of previous space strips went out of the window. Not for Barbarella the observation of those conventional laws which had characterised America's Buck Rogers and Britain's Dan Dare — a knowledge of different gravity fields, a wary care for hostile atmospheres and a need to cope with strange space languages. Capering around the universe without space helmet or suit, chattering away to all and sundry in galactic Esperanto and wearing little more than the skin she was born in, she seemed quite immune to such apprehensions.

Like one of the apsaras of Hindu mythology, those divine nymphs who roam the floors of heaven, coupling at will with the embodied souls of the righteous, Barbarella, too, seemed to regard it as her mission to bestow herself generously upon any man (or, for that matter, robot) in whom she found signs of virtue.

True, there was more than a hint of S&M in Forest's creation (which was magnified in Roger Vadim's film version). In one scene a revolting machine threatens the heroine with death by orgasm. And in another, hostile steel-jawed dolls sink their teeth into her fair flesh, causing the blood to flow over her scanty lingerie. But unlike that other accident-prone strip cartoon character Modesty Blaise, Barbarella never had to exert any ingenuity to get out of a scrape. A hop, a skip, a sigh or a flash of her irresistible assets to dazzle and confuse the enemy, and she was out of one tight corner — generally soon to find herself in another.

Jean-Claude Forest had his artistic training at the Ecole des Arts et des Métiers, Paris. While still a student, he worked on his first cartoon strip, a visual adaptation of R. L. Stevenson's Wars of the Roses novel, *The Black Arrow*.

In his early twenties he worked on *Vaillant*, a weekly comic for boys, producing several fantasy strips and so making himself a reputation. By 1959, he was drawing a comic strip for *France-Soir*.

But it was *Barbarella*, first created in 1962 for the magazine *V*, that made his reputation. The strip, with its soft porn heroine — whose motto in life seemed to be "If it moves, proposition it" — became hugely popular among adolescents and young men, who liked her propensity for shedding what little clothing she wore whenever she exerted herself. In 1964 a series of the strips was published as a book and a few years later there was an English language version.

But although, in general, France prided itself on having shown the Anglo-Saxon world how to get sex into space with style, the authorities had a sudden *réflexion bourgeoise* about their country being once again styled the publishing *centre pornographique*. There was a futile attempt to ban the book, but the genie was too far out of the bottle.

The *enfant terrible* of "starkers" cinema, Roger Vadim, who had made his reputation by putting on the screen the undraped splendours of his wife Brigitte Bardot in his first film, *Et...Dieu créa la Femme* (1956), now had *Barbarella* in his sights. Already divorced from Bardot (and, after her, Annette Stroyberg), he was now on his third wife, Jane Fonda, who (just as Bardot would have been — *Et...Dieu* was pretty much a *Barbarella* of the beaches) was a perfect vehicle for the Forest idea.

With her naturally agreeable contours little disguised by clothing, the third Mme Vadim was soon capering around the set of *Barbarella*, molested (and as frequently doing the molesting herself) by a host of monsters, misfits, machines and the occasional angel. The results of these absurd antics, lovingly photographed by Claude Renoir, went on general release in 1968.

Fonda, a product of the Actors' Studio in New York, was really far too intelligent for the Vadim sex goddess treatment, and she later moved on to better things (and two other marriages). But for the moment her unimpeachable physical credentials carried her through. The result, a sex fantasy firmly rooted in its era, is nevertheless still watchable. Its success owed a good deal to Forest himself, who supervised the set design for Vadim, and made some of his more outlandish cartoon notions work on screen.

Having soared to success on a wave of girlie sex, Forest stuck with the genre. He became editor of a new adult magazine *Chouchou*, for which he created the strip *Baby Cyanide*, and created another nubile female protagonist for French television. But he was never again to achieve the éclat of *Barbarella*.

He is survived by his wife Petra, and by a son.

# PROFESSOR TAD RYBCZYNSKI

**Professor Tadeus Rybczynski, economist, died on December 18 aged 75. He was born on May 21, 1923.**

TAD RYBCZYNSKI made lasting contributions both to economic theory and to an understanding of financial institutions and markets, and was also a selflessly active member of an astonishing number of professional bodies, at least one of which he founded. His achievements are yet another example of the contribution made by immigrants to Britain's professional life.

Tadeus Mieczyslaw Rybczynski was born in Lvov in the Ukraine. He came to Britain in 1942 via the Soviet Union and the Middle East and enlisted in the RAF, becoming a bomber pilot. In 1949 he joined Lloyds Bank, while also studying at the London School of Economics as an external student, obtaining first a BCom and then, in 1952, an MSc degree. Out of the latter came a seminal article on the theory of international trade, known ever since as the Rybczynski theorem, which analysed the effects of a shift in the distribution of economic resources.

In 1954 he joined Lazard Brothers, then one of the few merchant banks to employ economists, and before long he was head of its economic research department. In 1969 he was made a director of Lazard Securities, the fund management arm of the bank. After retiring from this in 1986 he retained a role as economic adviser to Lazard Brothers for a further two years.

It is almost impossible to think of a professional body in the field of applied economics in Britain in which Rybczynski did not play an influential role, even while he was still with Lazards. He was chairman of the Society of Business Economists between 1963 and 1975, and in 1968 was elected to the council of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and to that of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, for both of which his investment judgment proved particularly fruitful.

He served on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission between 1978 and 1981. In the early 1970s he founded the City Monetary Group, which still meets regularly to discuss monetary and other economic questions. At various times he also served on the council or governing body of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Royal Economic Society, the Trade Policy Research Centre and the Economic Research Council.

His international outlook was evidenced in his membership of the committee of the Foreign Affairs Club and of the science committee of the Centre for Monetary and Banking Studies at the University of Geneva. In 1980 he received the Abramson Award of the National Association of Business Economists in the United States, and in 1983 he was the recipient of the Harms Award from the University of Kiel.



His university activities were notable. He served on the court of Brunel University between 1976 and 1979 and was a visiting professor at the University of Surrey between 1968 and 1974. He then became a visiting professor at the City University, where he was also awarded an honorary DSc in 1990. His writings were numerous, spanning monetary and banking problems, international finance and taxation.

His unbounded energy was not, as is often the case, accompanied by any desire to dominate or by any hint of vanity. He was a modest and gentle persuader whose scepticism about dogma never degenerated into mere cynicism. He was always ready to encourage the young and inspired affection as well as respect.

Tad Rybczynski leaves his widow Helena, whom he married in 1951, and a daughter.

## ON THIS DAY

### January 12, 1952

*The obituary of General de Lattre de Tassigny paid tribute to the way this distinguished soldier and statesman's faith in the Allied cause did much to restore pride to the French army.*

### FAITH IN ALLIED CAUSE

... At the beginning of 1940 de Lattre assumed command of the 14th Division. This formation fought with great determination at Rethel, and he kept it well in hand in the subsequent retreat and rearguard actions. A brief period of service in France under the Vichy regime followed; but the atmosphere was little to his liking and he was happy to be appointed to the command of the forces in Tunisia in 1941. From this post he was, however, recalled in January of the following year, on the basis of well-founded suspicion of sympathy for the Allied cause, and given the command of a division at Montpellier.

When the Allies landed in North Africa in November of that year he foresaw that the Germans would enter unoccupied France. In the hope that an Allied landing in southern France would follow he strove to establish a bridgehead near Cette: but his handful of men was overrun and he was condemned to ten years' imprisonment.

On September 3, 1943, de Lattre broke out of his fourth prison, that of Riom, with the aid of his wife and son. In the early hours of October 18 an aircraft of the RAF picked him up near Macon and carried him to England. Reaching Algiers in late December, he received from General Giraud command of the Second Army, later Army B, which he had to organize from the bottom up, in face of considerable political as well as military obstacles. His first operation was the liberation of Elba. On August 15 he landed on the French Riviera, and the capture of Toulon and Marseilles was swiftly carried out.

After a rapid pursuit of the retreating Germans up the valleys of the Rhône and Saône during the first half of September, Army B established touch with the "Overlord" armies on the plateau of Langres and from approximately this time became known as the First French Army. Its next great feat was the breaching of the "Gap of Belfort" in mid-November snowstorms.

After the German Ardennes offensive the First French Army, reinforced by the United States XXI Corps, cleared the "Colmar Pocket", captured 20,000 prisoners and almost annihilated the 19th German Army. In March it broke through the Siegfried Line and crossed the Rhine north of Karlsruhe. Then came its sweep to the Danube and thrusts southward into Tirol, a magnificent revenge. On May 8 de Lattre signed on behalf of France the Reich's act of capitulation in Berlin ...

Court of Appeal — Law Report January 12 1999 — Court of Appeal

# Court must end tenancy

**Manchester City Council v Cochrane and Another**

Before Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice *Judge and Sir John Knox*

[Judgment December 21]

An introductory tenancy granted by a local authority under Part V of the Housing Act 1996 for one year without security of tenure entitled the council to apply for a possession order if the tenants or their visitors caused a nuisance.

The county court was obliged to make an order for possession so long as the council complied with the statutory procedure in sections 127 and 128 of the Act.

The only challenge open to the tenant if an internal review upheld the council's decision, was an application to the High Court for judicial review of the decision, for which purpose the county court had power to grant an adjournment of the possession proceedings, but not a stay.

In contrast to Part VII of the Act which empowered the county court to exercise a judicial review jurisdiction in relation to homelessness cases, the county court had no similar jurisdiction to hear appeals by introductory tenants on points of law.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of Manchester City Council against the dismissal by Judge Howarth in Manchester County Court of the council's appeal against the decision of District Judge Griffiths that the county court had jurisdiction to entertain defences by the introductory tenants, Mr Joseph Cochrane and Mrs Annette Cochrane, to the council's possession proceedings.

Section 127 of the 1996 Act provides:

"(1) The landlord may only bring an introductory tenancy to an end by obtaining an order of the court for the possession of the dwelling-house.

"(2) The court shall make such an order unless the provisions of section 128 apply.

Section 128 provides:

"(1) The court shall not entertain proceedings for the possession of a dwelling-house let under an introductory tenancy unless the landlord has served on the tenant a notice of proceedings complying with this section."

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Jonathan Manning for the council; Mr Peter Buckley for the tenants.

SIR JOHN KNOX said that the appeal raised the question of the extent of the county court's jurisdiction in dealing with possession actions in relation to introductory tenancies under Part V of the 1996 Act.

That part contained novel provisions for housing authorities to elect to operate an introductory tenancy scheme whereby new tenants would have a probationary one-year period before becoming secure tenants. Manchester City Council made such an election.

On April 15, 1997 the council granted Mr and Mrs Cochrane a joint weekly tenancy of a property in Burnage, Manchester. The tenancy was expressed to be an introductory tenancy until April 14, 1998 when Mr and Mrs Cochrane were to become secure tenants.

Clause 1.9 of the tenancy agreement stated, inter alia:

"The council can take possession of your home ... Because of your own action or the action of someone living with you or visiting you: You, or they, must have broken a rule in this tenancy agreement or given false information in your housing application..."

Clause 4 set out the tenant's responsibilities, including requirements not to cause a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to any other person and not to inflict or threaten domestic violence.

The council served a notice dated March 9, 1998 to terminate the introductory tenancy, alleging breaches of the tenancy agreement. All the requirements in section 128(1) to (7) were complied with and the validity of the notice was not challenged.

The tenants requested a review. In April 1, 1998 an oral review was held. The tenants claimed that it was not conducted in accordance with the Introductory Tenants (Review) Regulations (SI 1997 No 72). There had been no investigation of the truth of those allegations.

After the oral review the council confirmed their decision to terminate the tenancy and issued proceedings for possession of the property on April 9, 1998.

Before District Judge Griffiths on June 9, 1998 an objection was made by the council to the jurisdiction of the county court to hear the defence the tenants wished to advance. The district judge, taking the view that the court had jurisdiction, gave directions.

A defence was filed denying the breaches of the tenants' agreement and alleging failures to comply with the regulations and a denial of natural justice in the conduct of the review. An appeal was dismissed by Judge Howarth on June 18, from which the present appeal was brought.

In his Lordship's view the appeal should be allowed for three reasons.

First, the private law right of the tenants under an introductory tenancy was no more than a right to possession until an order for possession in favour of the landlord was made by the court, and such order had to be made once the requirements of section 128 regarding the notice of proceedings had been complied with.

Parliament, by enacting section 127(2) in mandatory terms clearly imposed a statutory limitation on the right of an introductory tenant to retain possession.

Indeed there was a remarkable constriction of the court's powers in that, on the one hand, under section 128(1) the court was prohibited from even entertaining possession proceedings unless the various requirements of section 128 were satisfied, while on the other hand, if the requirements of section 128 were satisfied, the court was positively required to make a possession order under section 127(2).

There was no escape from that analysis. The court had no discretion in the matter at all.

The council's duty to comply with section 129(2) in conducting a review was subject to judicial review. The county court had to have at least jurisdiction to grant an adjournment if satisfied that there was a real chance of leave to apply for judicial review being granted. That was the view of Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, in *Avon County Council v Buscott* ([1988] QB 656).

It would be a clear contravention of the mandatory terms of section 127(2) for the county court to entertain a defence based on a denial of allegations of breaches of a tenancy agreement relied on in the notice under section 128.

Similarly it would not be proper for a county court to grant a stay of possession proceedings on the application of a tenant alleging failure by the landlord to observe the rules of natural justice.

The general prohibition in section 38(3) of the County Court Act 1984 operated as a ban on any county court reviewing the failure to exercise a public duty unless there was parliamentary authority for it to do so.

That conclusion was supported by the second reason, which was the contrast between section 204(1) of the 1996 Act conferring jurisdiction upon the county court to decide any point of law in relation to housing authority reviews under section 202(1) regarding homelessness on the one hand, and section 138(1) read with section 127(2) which conferred a very much narrower jurisdiction relating to reviews of decisions to take proceedings to evict introductory tenants on the other hand.

The third reason was procedural. If the county court had jurisdiction to entertain a defence based on the invalidity of the housing authority's review, the result would probably be that the tenant would become a secure tenant. Clearly that was not a desirable result, nor one which Parliament intended.

No such result would follow if the county court only granted an adjournment of the possession proceedings to enable judicial review proceedings to be taken by the tenant.

His Lordship considered it regrettable that Parliament should have given only such minimal powers to the county court by section 138(1) of the Act. That sat ill with Part VII which conferred upon the county court powers wide enough to include public law defences in connection with proceedings under the Housing Acts. As the Act stood, since the validity of the notice under section 128 was not challenged the tenants' defence should be struck out.

Lord Justice Judge delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Susan Orrell, Manchester; Clifford Chapman & Co, Manchester.

# When time runs

**Roberts v Winbow**

Time started to run for limitation purposes from the date when the plaintiff knew that a lesser part of her injuries was attributable to the defendant and not when she later discovered that the greater part was also so attributable.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch and Mrs Justice Hale) so stated on December 4 on an appeal by the defendant, Dr Adrian John Winbow, against the decision of Judge Brandt on February 21, 1998 at Colchester County Court that the claim of the plaintiff, Linda Anne Roberts, for medical negligence had commenced outside the limitation period. The court exercised its discretion to disapply section 11(4) of the Limitation Act 1980 and allowed the action to proceed to trial.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the case raised a new question in a medical negligence case.

If a plaintiff suffered injuries some of which she knew to be attributable to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, but the main part of which was not to the plaintiff's knowledge attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, did the three-year period commence when the plaintiff had knowledge that the lesser part of the injury was attributable, or did the period start only when the plaintiff had knowledge that the greater part of the injury was attributable?

His Lordship accepted that the limitation period started to run from the earlier of those two dates.

# Third party cannot revive claim

**Companhia Europeia de Transportes Aeros SA v British Aerospace plc and Another**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment December 21]

The court would not make an order that would have the effect of allowing a third party to intervene in a dead action so as to make himself a party in order to resuscitate a dead claim and avoid a limitation defence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff company, Companhia Europeia de Transportes Aeros SA (Euroair), from the refusal by Mr Justice Longmore to extend time to allow its writ claiming damages for, inter alia, alleged breach of contract against the defendants, British Aerospace plc and CIBC Finance plc, to be amended so as to add a third party, Dr Lopes, as a plaintiff in the action.

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Andrew Lydiard for Dr Lopes; Mr Mark Howard, QC and Mr David Garland for British Aerospace; CIBC Finance did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE TUCKEY said that Dr Lopes was a former director of Euroair, a Portuguese company in liquidation. Before the liquidation Dr Lopes held over 60 per cent of the company's shares. The action arose out of the acquisition of three aircraft manufactured by British Aerospace.

The proceedings were started in in 1993 just after Euroair went into liquidation. From 1994 the parties were locked in battle over security for costs.

An order made in January 1996 for security against Euroair was not complied with. In April Dr Lopes took an assignment of all Euroair claims against the defendants and Euroair applied to amend the writ to add Dr Lopes as a plaintiff.

However, in May 1996 an unless order was made against them that they provide security within 14 days and their application to allow Dr Lopes to join the action to pursue Euroair's contractual claims refused.

Euroair's appeal against those orders was dismissed and they were given until November 4, 1997 to provide the security ordered. Within the same time Euroair had to amend the writ to add Dr Lopes as plaintiff; see Order 20, rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Neither of those thing happened. British Aerospace therefore applied for the action to be dismissed for failure to comply with the unless order.

That application prompted Dr Lopes to apply for an order for leave to extend time for the amendment to the writ, alternatively for an order substituting himself as plaintiff and giving him leave to continue the action under Order 15, rule 7.

It was those applications that had come before Mr Justice Longmore who held that it was too late for Dr Lopes to be added as plaintiff since the action stood dismissed on November 4 because of Euroair's non-compliance with the unless order. Unless it could be revived there was no action to which Dr Lopes could be joined.

The judge recognised that the court did have jurisdiction to revive the action but said that it would be unthinkable to exercise it in the present case unless Euroair were now to provide the security which had been ordered and which they were obviously not going to do.

When Euroair failed to provide security on November 4 the action stood dismissed. They had the right to try to revive it by seeking an extension of time to provide security but had chosen not to do so.

So the action was to remain dismissed with no prospect of it being revived. Dr Lopes's position therefore at the time when the judge heard his application was that he was asking for an extension of time or an order for substitution to join *himself* into an action which stood dismissed and had no prospect of being revived.

Mr Justice Longmore held that Dr Lopes "was in insuperable difficulties if he was unable to procure [Euroair] to provide at this late hour security for costs. He had not been able to so procure and it was therefore unthinkable that the court would exercise its jurisdiction to regulate the consequences of dismissal".

The judge was correct. In that passage he recognised that he had a residual discretion to revive the action if security was provided, but as it was not going to be he would not allow Dr Lopes to join the action. Whether strictly that was a matter of jurisdiction or discretion did not matter.

The judge obviously made the right decision. Otherwise the effect of allowing Dr Lopes to join the action would enable him to get round the unless order altogether to pursue a claim in the right of the defaulting party.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Judge agreed.

Solicitors: Howard Kennedy; Linklaters.

# No pre-action discovery against insurers

**Burns v Shuttlehurst Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment December 21]

A claim for an indemnity under a contract of insurance, of which the plaintiff in a personal injury action was the statutory assignee, was not "a claim for damages for personal injuries" or "in respect of personal injuries" so as to empower the court to make an order for pre-action discovery against the insurers under section 33(2) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc from the order of Mr Justice Steel on April 24, 1998, in which he allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Thomas Stephen Burns, against District Judge Cole's refusal of his application for, inter alia, pre-action discovery against General Accident.

The plaintiff sued, inter alia, his employers, Shuttlehurst Ltd, for damages for personal injuries and obtained judgment with damages to be assessed. By then the employers were in liquidation and there were no assets to meet the claim. The employers' insurers, General Accident, refused to indemnify them.

Mr Robert Moxon-Browne, QC and Mr Charles Dougherty for General Accident; Mr John Foy, QC and Mr Simon Carr for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the court's jurisdiction to make an order for pre-action discovery was in section 33 of the 1981 Act which provided:

"(2) On the application in accordance with rules of the court, of a person who appears to the High Court to be likely to be a party to subsequent proceedings in that court in which a claim in respect of personal injuries to a person, or in respect of a person's death, is likely to be made, the High Court shall, in such circumstances as may be specified in the rules, have power to order a person who appears to the court to be likely to be a party to the proceedings and to be likely to have ... in his possession, custody or power any documents which are relevant to an issue arising or likely to arise out of that claim (a) to disclose whether those documents are in his possession, custody or power; and (b) to produce ... those documents..."

The relevant rule was Order 24, rule 7A of the Rules of the Supreme Court. By rule 7A(7) "a claim for personal injuries" meant "a claim in respect of personal injuries to a *person or in respect of a person's* death".

The proposed claim against General Accident was based on the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 1930.

The term "claim for personal injuries" was shorthand for "claim for damages for personal injuries". As a matter of construction, therefore, a claim to be indemnified by the insurers under the 1930 Act was not a claim for damages in respect of personal injuries.

His Lordship said the same meaning ought to be given to the expression "claim in respect of personal injuries to a person" in section 33(2) of the 1981 Act as was given to "damages claimed by the plaintiff ... consist of or include damages in respect of personal injuries" in section 11 of the Limitation Act 1980. That was because in each case it was a claim for damages in respect of personal injuries.

A claim for an indemnity under a contract of insurance, of which the plaintiff was the statutory assignee, was not a claim for damages for personal injury or in respect of personal injury, even though the quantum of the indemnity claimed was calculated by reference to the personal injuries.

Nor, until the plaintiff's claim had been quantified, could it be said that a claim against General Accident was likely. It was quite clear that if and when the claim was quantified, the documents would be discoverable: see section 2 of the 1930 Act.

Accordingly, the application for pre-action discovery failed.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Wansboughs Willey Hargrave; Thompsons, Birmingham.

## Corrections

In *Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton-UK Television Ltd* (*The Times* January 7) the solicitors for Pro Sieben were Denton Hall.

In *McDonald v FIFA* (*The Times* January 7) the judge was Mr Robin McEwan, QC.

In *R v Hereford Magistrates Court, Ex parte MacRae* (*The Times* December 15) junior counsel for Ms MacRae was Mr Stephen Cragg.




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More career women are leaving employment to set up on their own, says **Jon Ashworth**

# Leap in dark promises bright future

Every year in Britain, more than 150,000 women take a deep breath and leap into the uncharted waters of running their own business. Some sail along with ease while others struggle just to keep up with the current. But daunting as it is, few will regret taking the plunge.

More and more career women are trading the inflexibility of the office for the challenge and freedom of running their own show. It often holds a particular appeal for women at a particular stage of their career, typically in their mid-to-late-thirties and early forties, when they feel they have gone as far as they can within the corporate structure. Either they have come up against the glass ceiling, or have grown frustrated juggling work and family commitments.

Many aspire to the success of Anita Roddick, who started Body Shop with her husband, Gordon, with a single shop in Brighton in 1976. When it came to the stock market eight years later, the company was worth £8 million, making Roddick an "instant" £1.5 million. Body Shop is no longer the novelty it once was, but remains one of Britain's most famous exports, with 1,600 stores in 47 countries.





Aurelia Cecil, left, set up her public relations firm at the age of 23, while Anita Roddick started Body Shop with a £4,000 loan from her bank manager

Ms Roddick was no different to any other small entrepreneur when she called on her bank manager, seeking to borrow £4,000. She recalls: "I went to the bank and did everything wrong. I took my kids, I wore jeans, I was wearing a Bob Dylan T-shirt . . . I came back with Gordon a week later; he had profit-and-loss sheets, looked respectable, and suddenly we were taken seriously."

Ms Roddick says she is aware of many more women leaving big corporations to set up on their own. They have grown tired of the patriarchal culture and crave the flexibility that comes with being your own boss. Women are better networkers than men — they are not frightened to ask questions — and tend to be more innovative.

Companies are increasingly looking to outsource the supply of goods and services, making this a good time to go it alone. "Any woman can set up a small satellite business to do things that big business can't do," Ms Roddick observes. "It's a very exciting time for them."

She adds: "My advice would be: don't think big, think brilliant, think different. Once you get too big, your original ideas and creativity gets lost. When setting up, you should look to go in the opposite direction. We just ran in the opposite direction to what the cosmetics industry was doing. Once you have found one or two things which are different to the competition, shout it from the rooftops."

Another role model is Aurelia Cecil, sometime consort of the Duke of York, who set up Aurelia Public Relations with a £7,000 small business loan when she was 23. Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group, bought the company last year for up to £4.25 million (depending on hitting growth targets) but Aurelia, 31, remains at the helm. "It's very important that you believe in yourself," she says. "I remember, when I was young, a few people thought: this is never going to work. It's like sports people: When they're training at five o'clock in the morning, they're dreaming of that gold medal. You have to work unbelievably hard: seven days a week, 8am 'til 11pm."

Caroline Turner, 35, set up Hyperactive Publicity after more than a decade climbing the corporate ladder. She spent years on the road with rock bands such as INXS while working for Laister Dickson, an entertainment publicity company, then worked for a year as director of European publicity for Warner Films, based in Soho. She says: "It was then that I realised I wasn't a big company person at all."

Ms Turner set up Hyperactive in just eight days after she was approached to handle publicity for the Three Tenors concert. "I would never, ever, work again for a big corporation because so much time is spent on politics and fitting in to the company mode. There is so much more you could do in the job if you were allowed to get on and do what you most want to do."

She adds: "People who should be promoted are passed over for jobs because they don't play the political game, which is why a lot of women are setting up on their own. A big corporation has already got its own culture, and it's very difficult to leave your stamp on it."

Ms Turner says running your own business can be all-consuming, but does not regret the move. "It's the most risky, the most scary, the most frightening, but also the most exhilarating thing that I have done."

Helena Conibear left her job as a Bath-based regional manager with Mentzendorff, importers of Bollinger champagne, and now works from home in rural Somerset running various wine-related projects. She resumed working full-time after the birth of her first baby, Charlotte, but found that her perceptions had changed.

Ms Conibear says: "The great benefit of being self-employed is the flexibility — being able to take a month off in August if you want to — and the variety: it's much more stimulating. It needs much greater discipline, but you are your own boss."

She had progressed as far as she could within Mentzendorff without compromising her family life. "There was no way I could go up without going to London." Her husband, Simon, has a successful career of his own, making the leap in the dark somewhat less daunting. "I found it a terrible shock to start with: losing the pension, the company car, the credit cards, all the eating out . . . I'd hate to be the main breadwinner. It would be more stressful if you didn't have a second income coming in."

About a third of companies set up in Britain last year were formed by women, according to Barclays Bank. Only 18 per cent of women in business are under 35, while 40 per cent fall into the 35 to 44 age group, and 42 per cent are over 45.

Perhaps, not surprisingly, two thirds of businesses run from home are run by women. Benefits include flexible working hours and practices, being your own boss, reduced travelling time and improved quality of life. Being able to look after the children is another important consideration. Barclays expects advances in technology to swell the numbers even further.

Peter Oatley, manager of small business banking at Barclays, says: "Women in general are very positive about the role they're playing in the business community and draw strength from the successful female entrepreneurs such as Anita Roddick, who have made it from very humble beginnings. Career women feel more confident and find it easier to set up on their own."

Mr Oatley's advice to those contemplating this route is to do your research — make sure there is a market for your product — and set out your objectives in a clear business plan.

Anita Saldanha, a London-based Lloyds TSB business banking manager, says research is all-important: "It may be a brilliant product, but if there is no market, there's no point. Women tend to be confident and do a lot of research. They come well prepared, and are quite happy to sit and listen."

Studies by Lloyds TSB suggest that women are often financially shrewder than men, and tend to be more structured and long-term in their approach. However, stamina is called for. Ms Saldanha says: "The first thing is to treat the business as something that will take up quite a lot of their working hours. It's not easy money."

One entrepreneur who would agree is Meriel Spencer, 55, who supplies specialist equipment to BT and cable television companies from her home near Swindon. She spent most of her career as a full-time employee before setting up on her own nearly four years ago.

Ms Spencer says: "I thought, if I don't do it now, I never will, but I wish I'd done it 20 years ago, when I had more energy. I love what I do, but it's very hard work in as much as I work some evenings until two o'clock in the morning. I've worked all night; I work weekends. It's home, and you can never get away from it. The phone might ring at 10pm. I don't regret it at all, because I can look back and say: I've done it."

Mary Bonner, who set up her own catering company 11 years ago, says: "I'd say: do it, but it isn't easy. I've gone through some very difficult times, but my advice would be to just keep your eyes and ears open, because opportunities come along, and you must have the courage to just go with it."

Ms Bonner says women are naturally cut out for the challenge. "Women are prepared to take a few more risks than men. I went through a divorce, had to keep the mortgage going, feed the children ... Women are able to do these things. A lot of people think it's very romantic to run your own business. It's not, but you do get a great sense of achievement."

**Peter Kilfoyle, Minister for Public Service in the Cabinet Office, will answer questions on better regulation and red tape live on the Enterprise Zone website at www.enterprisezone.org.uk tonight at 6pm.**

☐ Nearly two thirds of small business owners expect to witness a downturn in trading over the next 18 months, according to the latest *Small Business Bulletin* from Barclays. This has prompted the majority of small firms to take steps to counteract the effects of the economic slowdown, mainly by increasing marketing activity and reducing costs.

☐ The number of organisations signing up to the Government-backed better payment practice code has reached 900. The list is on the Internet at www.payontime.co.uk.

☐ Co-operative groups should be formed to build Internet knowledge among small businesses, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants has recommended after a study showed little use of the Web. The findings are set out in *UK Business and the Information Superhighway: The Impact of the Internet on SMEs*, which is available free by calling 0141-309 3999.

☐ Buying British is preferred by small and medium-sized businesses, which believe they will boost domestic employment in this way. A survey for Lloyds Bank, compiled by the Small Business Research Trust, shows that 45 per cent of businesses actively seek British goods and 12 per cent would pay more to buy British.

☐ An audio tape advising small companies on improving productivity has been produced by *Business Pages*, the business-to-business directory. The tape, including tips from Professor Cary Cooper, a management expert, recommends motivating staff through profit-sharing and involving them in decision-making, and reducing stress by performing tasks in order of priority. Inquiries: 0117 982 2005.

☐ *More people aged 50 and over are starting businesses*, partly to maintain their standard of living in retirement, a Barclays Bank study has found. The over-50s proportion of the population has risen from 18 to 20 per cent in six years and the number of businesses started by them is now 50,000 a year. The study revealed that a fifth of these entrepreneurs will stop working only when they die.

## Bug-buster campaign links firms to India

By Brian Collett

BUSINESS Link Thames Valley is putting up £2,400 to back a marketing campaign for a project to link small businesses facing the millennium bug with computer experts in India.

The remote method of millennium-proofing computer software is being offered to small companies to overcome the shortage of information technology specialists here.

Lateral Connections, an employment agency in Bracknell, Berkshire, has found skilled IT people in India to do the bug-busting. The millennium-proofing companies have been vetted by British IT experts. Lateral Connections *is offering to fly in teams if* businesses prefer to have the work done on site.

Lateral Connections is recruiting more bug-busters in Eastern Europe, mainly Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Estonia.

Nigel Wood, Lateral Connections' director, believes new solutions are needed because even the 20,000 specialists being trained with government money will not be sufficient.

Bug-busters in Britain are charging between £800 and £2,000 a day. Mr Wood said: "Even bringing in *teams* is cheaper than using IT people here. We will employ the teams, pay the market rate and add a margin when billing. This is still about half the price people are charging in the UK."

LATE OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Client's Address Book

"Yes! It's a new epoch — chasing euros"

## Dockyard site becomes home to IT sector

By Iola Smith

A HOME for small businesses that conduct their operations electronically is being established in West Wales.

The listed buildings at Pembroke's Royal Dockyard are being converted into Wales's first information technology park by the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and Pembrokeshire County Council.

The first company, Graphic Data, has moved in. It specialises in scanning and microfilming documents, such as technical drawings and plans, and it has created 12 jobs in the park. Three more businesses are considering following suit, including a company belonging to Nigel Cox, one of the park's instigators.

As managing director of Bookflow Limited he specialises in the provision of information services to libraries. But his intention for Pembroke is to attract a cluster of information technology businesses with mutually complementary technologies in the communications and electronic publishing sectors.

He is convinced that, by sharing facilities and specialist equipment, companies' costs can be reduced.

"To make this scheme a focus of European importance we need to create a substantial range of job opportunities," Mr Cox said. This would "justify investment in the development of necessary skills and intellectual interests."

West Wales Training and Enterprise Council has already been roped in to provide the requisite training for local people.

Attracting new industrial sectors to West Wales is crucial after the crisis in agriculture and the cutbacks in the oil industry. Information technology is particularly welcome as a job creator, according to Nick Ainger, Labour MP for Pembroke, because it "overcomes the peripherality" that has plagued Pembrokeshire for years.

The WDA also plans a programme to encourage the spinning-out of more businesses from Welsh higher education. The long-term aim of the Top Spin programme is to build a cluster of high-tech companies to exploit research work at Welsh academic institutions and provide work for the 90,000 full-time students that attend them.

Business start-up support is likely to include interest-free loans of up to £25,000, access to market research, use of workspace and technical facilities at universities and consultancy. It is hoped that some funding will come from the European Regional Development Fund.

One of the task force members is Dr Owen Jones, chairman of Agrisense, a company set up in 1984 as a spin-out to exploit biological technology developed partly at Cardiff University.

## State aid to boost electronic business

By Sally Watts

AN EXTRA £20 million will help more small firms to take advantage of the opportunities provided by electronic commerce. By 2002, the Government aims to treble to one million the number of small businesses wired up to the digital marketplace. Measures will include removing legal barriers to on-line trading.

This extension of the Government's Information Society Initiative is announced in the White Paper, *Our Competitive Future: Building the Knowledge Driven Economy*.

The White Paper also announces support for growing SMEs in English regions facing economic difficulty or high unemployment, such as coal-mining areas, cities, coastal towns or countryside areas with a decline in traditional job opportunities. This support will come via the new regional development agencies.

Through a new £150 million Enterprise Fund, entrepreneurs will be helped to start and grow high-value businesses; the fund will build on the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and will stimulate venture capital for businesses with potential to grow.

A further incentive will be increased opportunities for small companies to collaborate with both large companies and universities to develop ideas. In addition, new centres of expertise will be attached to Business Links to provide specialist services.

## Access to e-mails queried

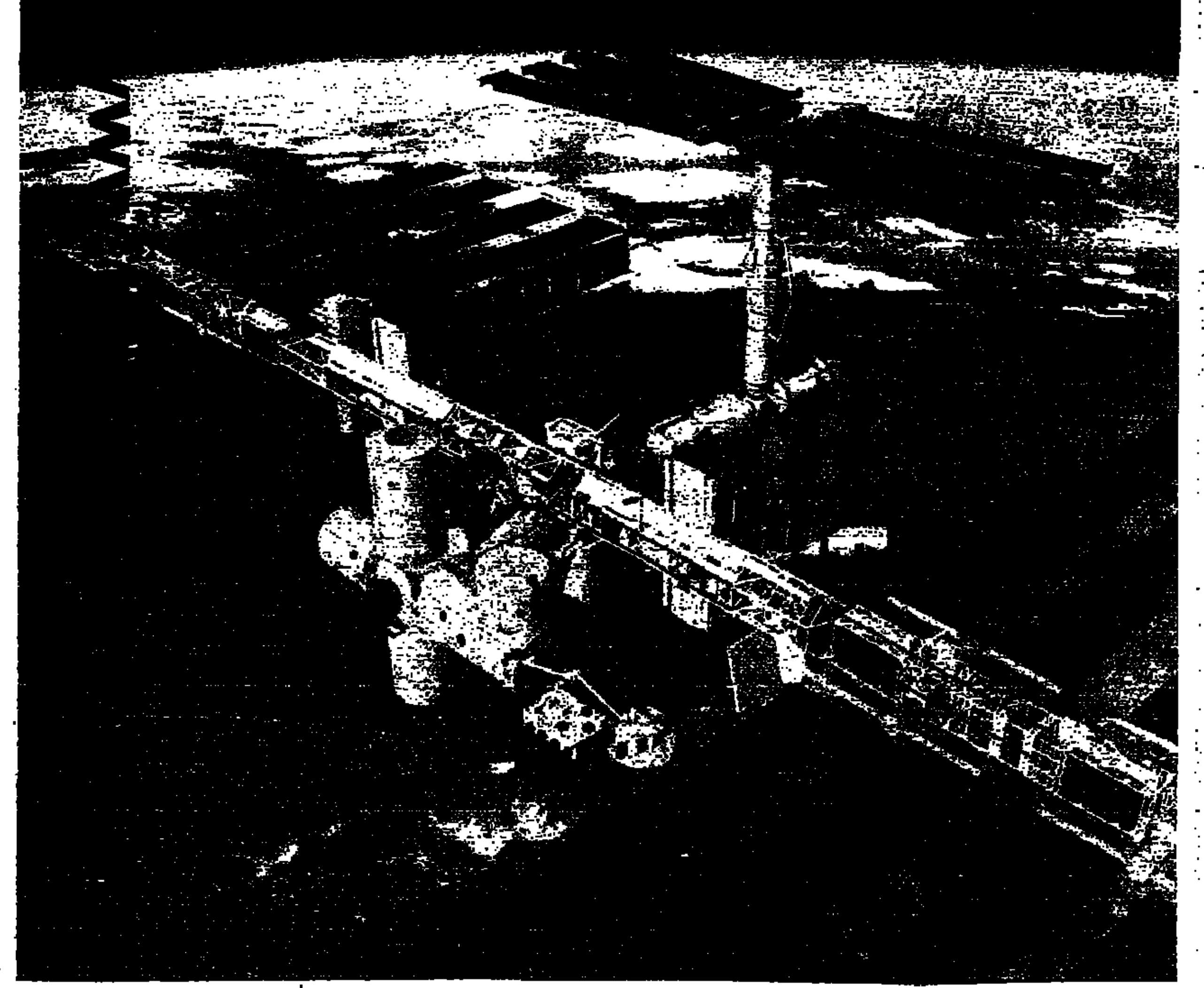
PLANS to restrict police access to e-mails has led to an alternative proposal that is even more intrusive, says Maclay Murray & Spens, a firm of solicitors that claims to have the largest intellectual property department in Scotland (Brian Collett writes).

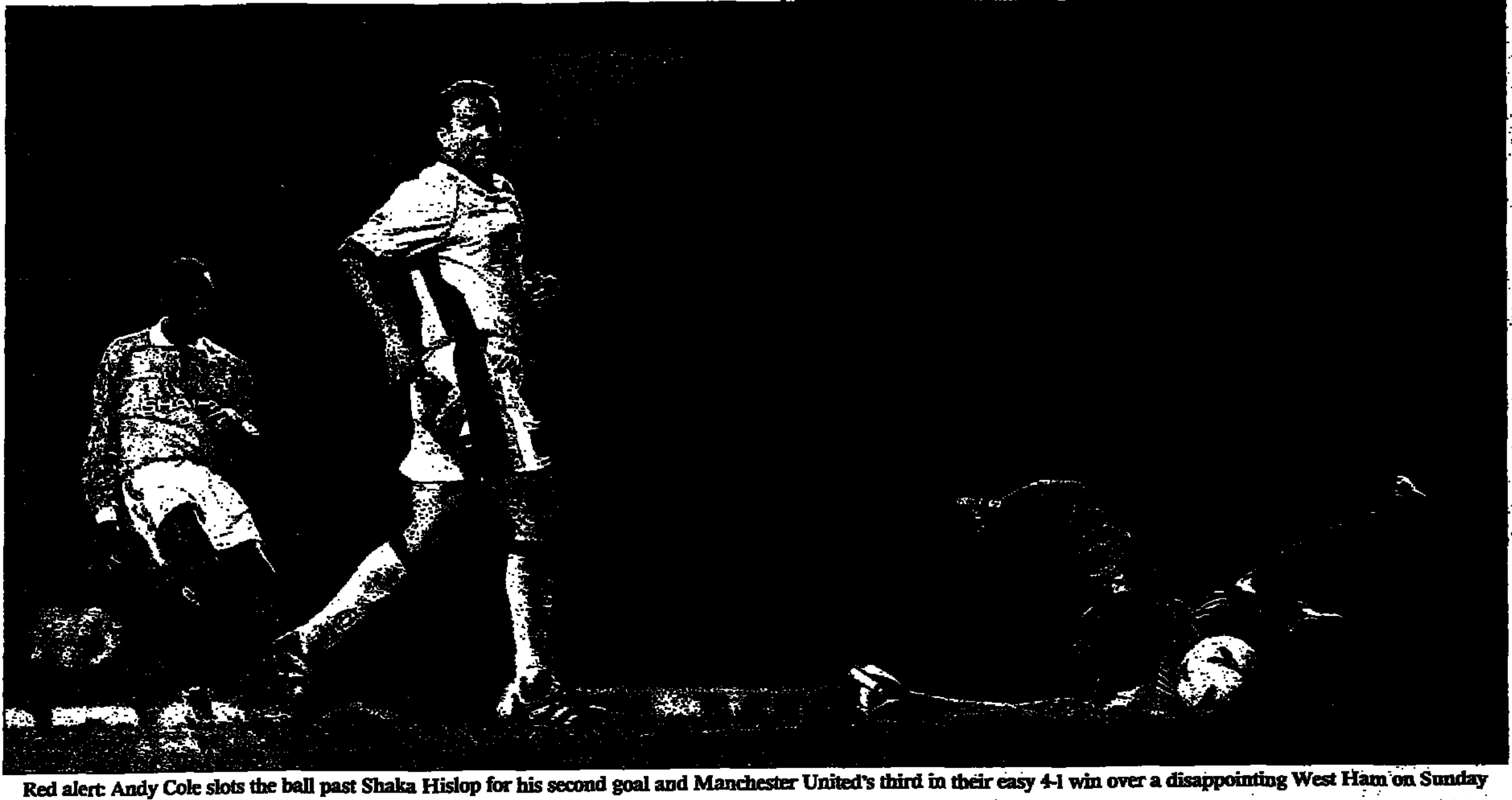
At present, the police need a warrant to gain access to e-mails if Internet providers refuse to hand over information. Under proposed changes the police would still need a warrant, but would be licensed to use decoding software for encrypted e-mails. To avoid this, the Internet providers are discussing an agreement allowing the police to monitor e-mails without a warrant.

Claire McCartney, of Maclay Murray & Spens, said both moves could deter small businesses from using electronic commerce, which is being promoted by the European Commission as the trading medium of the future.

The law firm will approach the Home Office with objections to any intrusion into confidential e-mails when it knows whether the agreement or legislation is to go ahead.







Red alert: Andy Cole slots the ball past Shaka Hislop for his second goal and Manchester United's third in their easy 4-1 win over a disappointing West Ham on Sunday

# Revealed: why the Big Ron factor will sink Arsenal

In a fortnight's time *The Times* Fantasy League will be taking a week's break while the fourth-round FA Cup matches are played. On Tuesday January 24 we will publish player lists updated to include the Aston Villa v Everton game played on Monday January 18, but there will be no weekly prize or ON-Target numbers. Prizes will roll over to the following week.

■ If you are planning a transfer or two, it might be worth thinking about taking the unusual step of *replacing any Arsenal defenders you* may have in your side. Why? Consider the following.

On December 21, 1996 Arsenal led the FA Carling Premiership table when they visited the City Ground to play Nottingham Forest, the bottom team. However, Forest had just made a managerial change, replacing Frank Clark with Stuart Pearce. Inspired by the new boss, Forest triumphed 2-1.

We move on to November 22, 1997. Big Ron Atkinson had just taken control at moribund Sheffield Wednesday, and found himself facing the daunting prospect of a visit from none other than Arsenal, in second place, fresh from a 3-2 win over Manchester United, for his first game in charge of the team. Inspired by the new boss, Wednesday triumphed 2-0.

We move on again. It is January 1999. Nottingham Forest have sacked Dave Bassett, and confirmed the appointment of Ron Atkinson as their new manager. On Saturday, his first match in charge of his new side will be at the City Ground, against — you guessed it, Arsenal. Inspired by the new boss . . . ?

■ This weekend's matches are the "return fixtures" of the opening games of the season. Wimbledon beat Tottenham 3-1 at Selhurst Park on a sunny day in August, and kick off a three-game series against the same opposition with an encounter at White Hart Lane, before meeting Spurs twice more in Worthington and FA Cup ties. Expect a cagey performance from the visitors, who relish visiting the more fashionable London grounds and puncturing expectations. Rest assured that Joe *Kinnear will have devised a plan for* dealing with David Ginola, and will be looking forward to putting it into practice on Saturday.

Elsewhere, the games between Leeds United and Middlesbrough and Derby County and Blackburn look too close to call, but Chelsea, Liverpool and West Ham will expect three points each from home matches with Coventry, Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday respectively. Chelsea, especially, will be looking forward to revenge against Coventry, whose opening-day 2-1 victory was Chelsea's only league defeat of the season so far.

Perhaps the most interesting match-up sees Manchester United visit Filbert Street to face Martin *O'Neill's high-energy Leicester City* team, who will be without the suspended Matt Elliott, but will still make things difficult for the visitors. On Sunday, what price an end to Charlton's losing run when inconsistent Newcastle come to The Valley?

■ Do not forget to check your team total against today's ON-Target number. *If* the numbers match, you have qualified to enter a draw which could win you £500 cash plus an EA Sports Pack. Even if your team scored only nine points in the week beginning January 5, you still have a chance of winning.



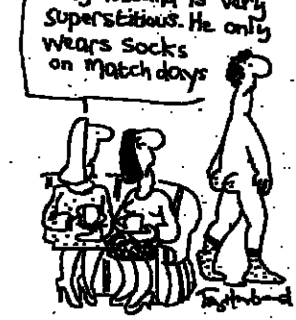

## PRIZES

- ***£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final***
- ***£10,000 to the runner-up***
- ***£5,000 for third place***
- ***£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt***
- ***£500 weekly On-Target prize***

## As I was saying

I don't want to seem to be boring . . .
**Perish the thought.**
Or a bit of an anorak . . .
**I would never accuse you of such a thing.**
But Newcastle's socks are beginning to worry me.
**You don't mean they've changed them again?**
*I'm afraid* so.
**What is it now, then? Pink? Purple? A special winter design in brown, so as not to show the mud?**
Well, nothing so drastic, actually. Still black, but that white ring round the middle seems to have disappeared now, judging by the television pictures of the *Chelsea game.*
**So you're telling me that the Newcastle socks you got me for Christmas are out of date already, are you?**
I may be. But then you probably remember that they changed to white, then went back to their original design again; so it may not be too late. You'll be back in *fashion in no time at all.*
**Is it Ruud Gullit being superstitious, do you reckon?**
There's no doubt in my mind. Get the socks right, and the rest will follow. And a set of socks costs much less than a new left back.
**Are you sure? Have you seen the prices of football kit recently?**
OK, a decent left back, then.
**Are you Fantasy League managers superstitious at all? Do you have any sad rituals like always watching the weather forecast on Teletext before looking at the results? Or wearing a lucky hat to check the player lists? Putting one sock on before the other?**
You'd end up with two socks on one foot if you didn't. Mind you, some of my fantasy team seem to grow two left feet as soon as I transfer them in. Remember I put Berkovic in my new team? Only two points from him *on* Sunday.
**Lucky to get that. West Ham never do well at Old Trafford. In fact, they're not so hot in away games generally.**
What you're saying is that players who are with teams that are more consistent will get you more regular points. So who should I avoid, apart *from West Ham?*
**Newcastle, I'd say, and Derby, too. You never know what they're going to do. Southampton and Blackburn look as if they might make a determined surge away from the bottom of the table, but neither performs too well away from home.**
*So who do* you *recommend?*
**Charlton.**
With eight straight defeats?
**You can't get more consistent than that.**



## HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

**TO ENTER BY POST** Name your team on the entry form, *left*, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

**LUCKY DIP** If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only.

**TO ENTER BY PHONE** Call **0640 67 88 99** (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

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Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

## THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

| CODE | NAME | CLUB | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | GOALKEEPER NAME | | £ m |
| | FULL-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | FULL-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | CENTRE-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | CENTRE-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | FORWARD NAME | | £ m |
| | FORWARD NAME | | £ m |

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐
I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐

First Name ______ Surname ______
Address ______
Postcode ______ Daytime tel ______
Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd) ______
Credit card number: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐
MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ______
Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above. Signature ______

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times
2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do *not* wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

## FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the *information* you need:

**CHECKLINE**
To check your team's standing
**0640 625 102**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

**TRANSFER LINE**
To alter your team
**0640 625 103**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

**FAXBACK**
A comprehensive update sheet
**0991 123 720**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

**SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK**
A brand new service
**0991 123 721**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)
Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

**HELPLINE**
for any queries
**01582 702720**

## CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | [illegible] | ARS | 0 | 19 | 3.7 |
| 146 | [illegible] | ARS | 3 | 9 | 3.4 |
| 139 | [illegible] | AST | 0 | 12 | 3.2 |
| 140 | [illegible] | AST | 3 | 2 | 2.9 |
| 144 | [illegible] | AST | 0 | -1 | 2.6 |
| 108 | [illegible] | BLA | 3 | -2 | 2.8 |
| 128 | [illegible] | BLA | 0 | 6 | 2.5 |
| 127 | [illegible] | BLA | 0 | -3 | 3.1 |
| 104 | [illegible] | CHA | -2 | -11 | 2.3 |
| 105 | [illegible] | CHA | 0 | 0 | 2.2 |
| 106 | [illegible] | CHA | 0 | -1 | 2.2 |
| 137 | [illegible] | CHE | 0 | 0 | 2.9 |
| 198 | E de Goey | CHE | 3 | 23 | 3.2 |
| 107 | [illegible] | COV | 0 | -1 | 2.4 |
| 117 | [illegible] | COV | 3 | -2 | 2.6 |
| 106 | [illegible] | DER | 0 | 3 | 2.3 |
| 153 | [illegible] | DER | -1 | 6 | 2.5 |
| 112 | [illegible] | EVE | 0 | 0 | 2.4 |
| 114 | [illegible] | EVE | 0 | 0 | 2.7 |
| 118 | [illegible] | EVE | 3 | 20 | 2.8 |
| 113 | [illegible] | LEE | 0 | 10 | 3.1 |
| 115 | [illegible] | LEE | 0 | 0 | 2.8 |
| 125 | [illegible] | LEE | 0 | 4 | 2.7 |
| 123 | [illegible] | LEI | 3 | 12 | 2.9 |
| 124 | [illegible] | LEI | 0 | 0 | 2.6 |
| 122 | [illegible] | LIV | 0 | -1 | 3.3 |
| 131 | [illegible] | LIV | 3 | 8 | 3.3 |
| 116 | [illegible] | MAN | 0 | 6 | 4.0 |
| 121 | [illegible] | MAN | 0 | 3 | 3.5 |
| 109 | [illegible] | MID | 3 | 11 | 2.7 |
| 110 | [illegible] | MID | 0 | 0 | 2.4 |
| 111 | [illegible] | MID | 0 | -3 | 2.5 |
| 141 | [illegible] | NEW | 0 | 8 | 3.0 |
| 142 | [illegible] | NEW | 0 | 0 | 2.7 |
| 143 | [illegible] | NEW | 0 | 3 | 2.5 |
| 119 | [illegible] | NOT | -3 | -17 | 2.7 |
| 120 | [illegible] | NOT | 0 | 0 | 2.6 |

هكذا من الأصل

# Accountant's team adds up to £500

## This week's Fantasy League winner from Lincolnshire showed the benefit of using the transfer allocation in a shrewd way

Last week on these pages, we were complaining that several players on *The Times* Fantasy League lists had accomplished fine feats in the FA Cup which counted for nothing in Fantasy terms as they had taken place in FA Cup third-round ties. Darren Huckerby's *hat-trick* in the game against Macclesfield Town was mentioned prominently.

Well, as if to make up for the frustration and anguish suffered seven days ago by Fantasy League entrants with Huckerby in their team, the Coventry City centre forward did it again on Saturday in his team's 4-0 win over Nottingham Forest at Highfield Road.

A low half-volley from John Aloisi's flick and a chip over Dave Beasant were followed by Huckerby's characteristic run from deep, beating man after man before slipping the ball home. And he hit a post after running from his own half, just for good measure.

Huckerby began his career at Lincoln City before being signed by Newcastle United. For some reason best known to Kevin Keegan, the manager, he played only once before being loaned to Millwall, for whom he scored three times in six games, and then sold to Coventry. In these days of target men and withdrawn forwards playing "in the hole", he is something of a throwback. Described while at Millwall as "a player who sees the whites of the goalposts and heads off towards them by the most direct route possible", he is a single-minded goalscorer, who also happens to possess considerable dribbling skills and a thunderous shot.

He can also be immensely frustrating. Many people will recall the playground superstar of their schooldays who got hold of the ball and would not let it go until he either scored or was dispossessed, and some of them feel a sense of déjà vu when they set eyes on Huckerby.

Last season, as Coventry cantered to a 5-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium, there was a revealing moment when Huckerby broke clear of the last defender with George Boateng, the midfield player, in close support. As they neared the edge of the penalty area, Boateng thought better of it and stopped running. He knew full well that, with the goal in his sights, Huckerby would never entertain the notion of passing; nor did he. His failure to score was probably forgiven when he later netted twice.

Saturday's hat-trick was worth nine points to any Fantasy League competitors fortunate enough to have selected him: Jim Ball, for




**COMPANY CHEFS FC**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| E De Goey | (CHE) | 3 |
| A Hinchcliffe | (SHE) | 3 |
| M Ball | (EVE) | 3 |
| M Elliott | (LEI) | 3 |
| G Festa | (MID) | 3 |
| J Redknapp | (LIV) | 0 |
| E Berkovic | (WES) | 2 |
| A Nielsen | (TOT) | 0 |
| R Giggs | (MAN) | 2 |
| D Yorke | (AST) | 5 |
| D Huckerby | (COV) | 9 |

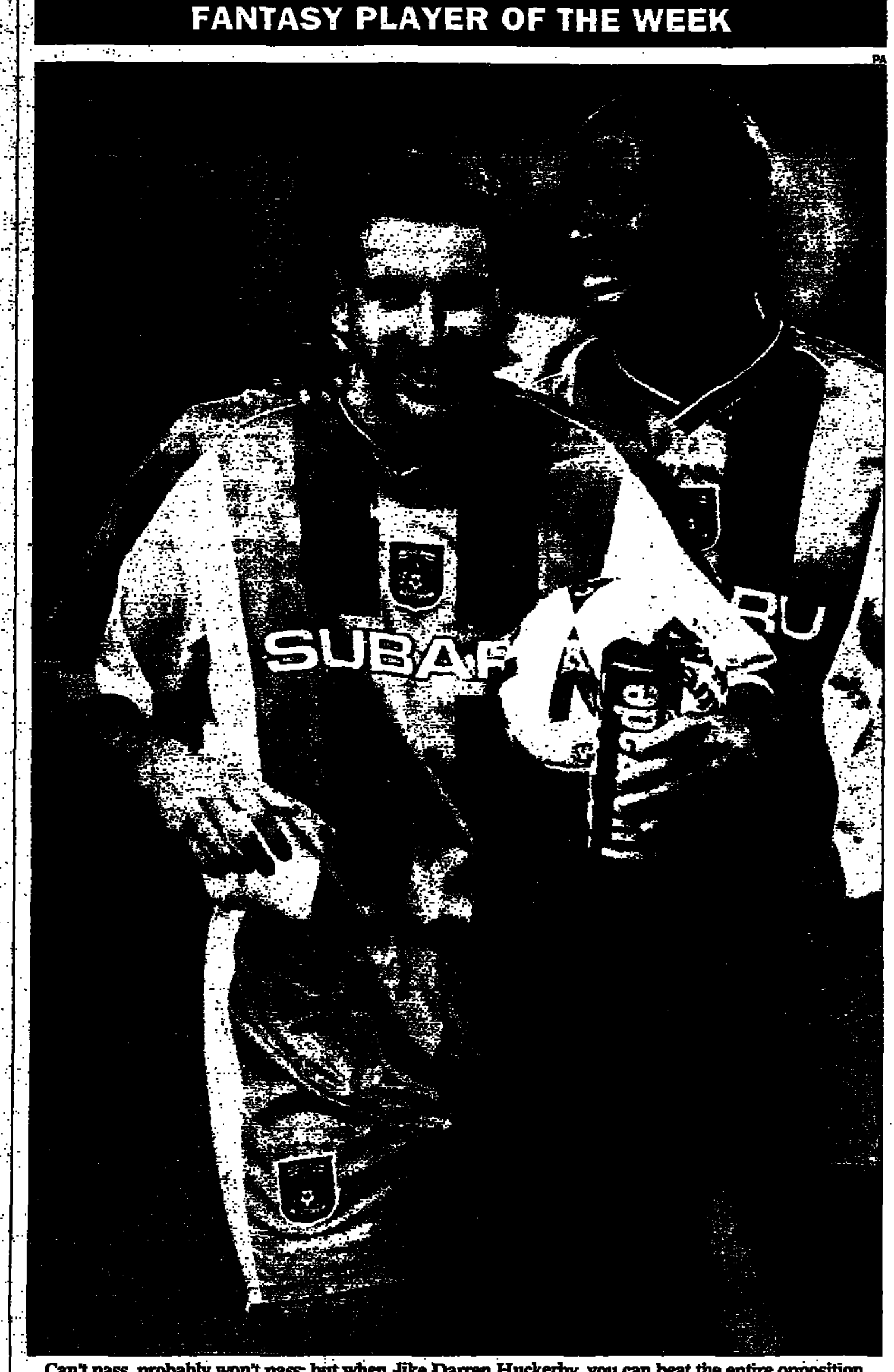
**TOTAL POINTS: 33**

instance, the winner of this week's prize of £500 plus £100-worth of sports equipment. "One of the cheaper forwards, but likely to score for any team," is the verdict of Mr Ball, a supporter of Crewe Alexandra, on Huckerby.

Mr Ball organises a 24-team league within the company he works for, J. E. Churchill of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, and found that he was spending so much time administering other people's teams that he had to make a conscious effort to update his own. "The team had been doing absolutely nothing for a long time," he explained. "I sat down about two months ago and made half a dozen transfers. It's a case of getting around to getting your transfers in." Good advice to *Fantasy League managers: his* signings included Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and Andy Hinchcliffe, all of whom contributed this week to *his total score of 33 points*, as well as his namesake, Michael, of Everton, who seems to figure in so many successful Fantasy selections.

So well done, Company Chefs FC. Mr Ball, an accountant, tells us unashamedly that the name refers to jocular accusations that he cooks the books . . .

**FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK**




Can't pass, probably won't pass: but when, like Darren Huckerby, you can beat the entire opposition team twice over then put the ball in the back of the net, who's worried? Not supporters of Coventry City, who saw Huckerby's lust for goals (or is it match balls?) net him another hat-trick on Saturday

**FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Phil Clarke | Shabadi United | 245 |
| 2 | Robert Little | Broken Arrow | 234 |
| 3 | Phil Tusler | Pin-Ups 7 | 233 |
| 3 | Michael Langdon | Hermaphrodites | 233 |
| 3 | Nigel Kalb | Kalbs Kings 8 | 233 |
| 6 | Tony Murnaghan | Tonys Terrors | 231 |
| 7 | Robert Anderson | Robert's Rovers | 230 |
| 8 | David Young | Dave 10 | 228 |
| 8 | Sean Morgan | Or Not Again Ref | 228 |
| 8 | L Samuels | Spartak Mossley | 228 |
| 11 | John Hives | Boogaloo Dudes | 227 |
| 11 | John White | Fusegear | 227 |
| 13 | Brian Highdale | Dene's Deans FC | 226 |
| 13 | Sean Eastwood | Coen Brothers | 226 |
| 13 | David Mead | In The City | 226 |
| 16 | Richard Deane | On The Wagon | 225 |
| 17 | Terry Bullen | El Tel's Revenge | 224 |
| 18 | Roy Weller | Blue & Black Bar | 223 |
| 19 | Philip Morton | Skilli Vanili | 222 |
| 19 | Thomas Meakin | Tt's All Stars | 222 |
| 19 | Ossie Smith | Corazon Fis 5 | 222 |
| 22 | Scott Brett | Scotts Stars | 221 |
| 22 | Michael Lynn | Stimmosnutter | 221 |
| 22 | John Lofthouse | Solid At The Bac | 221 |
| 22 | Murray Macmillan | Murray's Marvels | 221 |
| 22 | Alan Westrop | Tyneside Army 94 | 221 |
| 22 | Terry Bullen | Dion Dion Dion | 221 |
| 28 | Philip Haddon | Premier Cruising | 220 |
| 29 | Tony Burns | Barrett St Boys | 219 |
| 29 | Richard Yershon | Porno Flick | 219 |
| 29 | Mike Shipley | Minus Threat 10 | 219 |
| 29 | Andrew P Heelis | Shortstraw | 219 |
| 29 | Steve Ongari | Lokomotiv No Go | 219 |
| 34 | Mike Chippley | Minor Threat | 218 |
| 34 | James Walsh | Tigers Argyle | 218 |
| 34 | Robin Playdon | Robin's Raiders | 218 |
| 37 | Ron Allport | Cyclones | 217 |
| 37 | Andrew Marsh | Eat My Goal | 217 |
| 37 | Gordon Crutchley | Super Saddlers B | 217 |
| 37 | Nathan Carroll | Nath's Champs | 217 |
| 37 | J Prinsell | Grand Pan Pizza | 217 |
| 37 | Gary Levermore | Tora-Co. Team | 217 |
| 37 | Mike Hawke | Holytump Yagler | 217 |
| 37 | James Kerr | Serious Squad | 217 |
| 45 | Brian Ritson | Relegation Certs | 216 |
| 45 | Simon Barker | The Times Eleven | 216 |
| 45 | Tony Gammage | Namot Two | 216 |
| 45 | Phil Tusler | Peter 7 | 216 |
| 49 | Chris Wallis | Wallys Wonders 2 | 215 |
| 49 | Peter Roe | Bill & Teds Team | 215 |
| 49 | Martin White | Grampus Gunners | 215 |
| 49 | Peter Donnelly | Goals 'R Us | 215 |
| 49 | Peter Leathem | Spike Town | 215 |
| 49 | Michael Scaife | Alldolswash&go | 215 |
| 49 | Paul Caton | Euro Stars | 215 |
| 56 | Jillian Rose | Eemies Fleas | 214 |
| 56 | Ross Broadhurst | 829,360 | 214 |
| 56 | Oliver Chapman | Wigston Rangers | 214 |
| 56 | James Riley | The Promix Stars | 214 |
| 56 | Nicholas Keighley | These Eat Beans | 214 |
| 56 | John Humphreys | Academicals | 214 |
| 56 | Jennifer Cockburn | Yeah Right! | 214 |
| 56 | David Swithenbank | Titus All Stars | 214 |
| 56 | Reda Maher | Placidcasuals | 214 |
| 56 | Glen Reynolds | Wb 20 | 214 |
| 66 | John Mell | Melton United | 213 |
| 66 | F Welsby | Fulyhmu | 213 |
| 66 | Don Shater | Don 5 | 213 |
| 66 | Jas Singh | Inter City 442 | 213 |
| 66 | Pauline Hoggarth | Trumptontuesday | 213 |
| 66 | David Booth | Forever Everton | 213 |
| 72 | Nigel Kalbe | The Adams Family | 212 |
| 72 | Stuart Rutter | Spitonthevilla | 212 |
| 72 | Raymond George | Razor D | 212 |
| 72 | Laura Marsham | Silly Tarts Utd | 212 |
| 72 | Mark Coles | Joe Public | 212 |
| 72 | John Owen Read | Thesuperowls | 212 |
| 72 | Andrew Kavanagh | Super Snipers FC | 212 |
| 72 | Robert Tidd | Bob's Blasters | 212 |
| 72 | Darren Brannigan | Monday Moaners | 212 |
| 72 | Miles Tappin | Yeboaconstrictor | 212 |
| 82 | David Edmondson | Edmo Utd Mington | 211 |
| 82 | Nathan Smalley | Nathan's Lads | 211 |
| 82 | Charles Duncan | Allans Strollers | 211 |
| 82 | Phil Rothwell | Toffees 4 Me FC | 211 |
| 82 | Mike Brayne | Ooh-Aahs | 211 |
| 82 | David Wise | Walsall Reserves | 211 |
| 82 | Richard Mason | Riansoneric | 211 |
| 82 | Andy Luckhurst | Caroline B | 211 |
| 90 | James Inglis | Pride O The Rock | 210 |
| 90 | Trevor Denton | Chelstrev 1 | 210 |
| 90 | Jonathan Beswick | Bezzer's Boyz | 210 |
| 90 | Jonathan Hayes | Special Brew | 210 |
| 90 | Ross Broadhurst | Team 7152 | 210 |
| 90 | Richard Low | Geocir United | 210 |
| 90 | William Mann | Lepetitovermars | 210 |
| 90 | Gary Armstrong | Viagra United | 210 |
| 90 | Sam Naish | Son FC | 210 |
| 90 | Andrew James Spencer | This One's Mine | 210 |
| 90 | Steve Walker | Team C | 210 |

Plus two other teams on 210 points

# So what if your team is quite useless? You can win anyway

## Enter a new team now for ON-Target, where this week you only needs to score a paltry nine points to win the weekly prize

Congratulations to Tony Evans of West Wycombe, the fourth week's main winner of ON-Target, who finds himself £500 *richer and possessor of an* EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA '99 for the Playstation; FIFA '99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

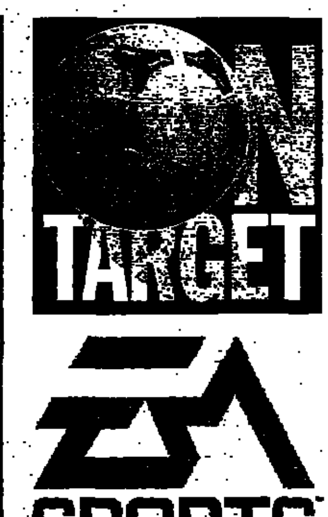
IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

**0870 901 4270**




If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

**Winners**

This week's winners are: Mr Tony Evans of West Wycombe. (£500 *plus EA Sports Pack*); Mr Simon Caldwell of Holyhead, Mr Lawrence Dawncey of London N17, Ms Nicola Bridge of London W13 and Mr L Benson of Ormskirk (EA Sports Packs); Ms Helen Barrow of Wirral, Mr Jamie Bryan of London E3, Mr Martin Freemantle of Edgbaston, Mr R Neilsen of London SW6, Mr Daniel Jennings of Bristol, Mr Graham Waters of Shrewsbury, Mr David Hargrave of Kirkstall, Leeds, Mr Peter Mason of Weston-super-Mare, Mark Hitchcocks of West Bromwich and Mr Eddie Chamberlain of Basingstoke (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).




**FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ**





Each week we challenge your footballing brains with a test. Last week there were pictures of Karlheinz Riedle, Ugo Ehiogu, Carl Cort and Jonathan Hunt — all of whom scored goals in the last ten minutes of their matches the previous weekend.

**This week we offer four more pictures with a connection. Identify the names and the link should become obvious. Answer next week**





**CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02**

**YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Robert Anderson | Robert's Rovers | 230 |
| 2 | David Swithenbank | Titus All Stars | 214 |
| 3 | Stuart Rutter | Spitonthevilla | 212 |
| 4 | Richard Low | Geocir United | 210 |
| 4 | Alexander Thackray-Norris | Finchmeadrovers | 210 |
| 6 | Jwalant Popat | Popat's Army | 209 |
| 7 | Paul Williams | Where Was Gazza | 207 |
| 7 | Richard Burton | No Fear | 207 |
| 9 | Matthew O'Neil | The M Team | 206 |
| 9 | Daisy Martin | Saxham Tuesdays | 206 |



Gianluca Festa, who features in the weekly winning team

# Flo, flu, sicknotes and suspensions

Last week, we touched on the subject of the importance of injuries, illnesses and *suspensions* in *The Times* Fantasy League, which events over the past weekend only served to emphasise.

Any player who picked up his fifth or eighth booking of the season received a *one-match suspension for the* fourth round of the FA Cup.

The good news for Fantasy League managers is that it ensures that the player concerned will not miss an all-important Premiership match as a result of *suspension. Both Phil Babb* and Martin Keown came into this category, and Fantasy managers with either of these two in their teams are able to raise a wry smile.

However, suspensions are starting to mount as players reach the critical number of yellow cards for a one-match ban. Steve Stone, Matt Elliott and Neil Redfearn are among those missing out next weekend, with Paulo Wanchope and Patrick Vieira banned for the next two league games after recent sendings-off.

On the subject of illnesses, it is the time of year when the flu bug makes an impact on many Premiership sides, although the effect of the virus tends to depend on the player who is stricken.

For example, Paul Ince showed his determination to increase his Fantasy League points total even though, by his own admission, he was feeling distinctly under the weather. Despite not producing his usual standard of performance, he realised that he is unable to add to his tally if he doesn't play.

In contrast, if Darren "Sicknote" Anderton has so *much as a sniffle, it is* rumoured that he hands Spurs manager George Graham a letter from his mother excusing him from training. However, it was a thigh injury that caused him to miss the last hour of Tottenham's encounter with Sheffield Wednesday at the weekend.

It could be interesting to keep an eye on players who are returning to first-team action after a long injury lay-off, or those replacing an injured regular.

Gary Kelly, for instance, is lined up for an *imminent* return to the Leeds United team after a long-term injury and his wing-back role makes him perfectly capable of amassing plenty of assists from wide positions.

Chelsea player-manager *Gianluca Vialli, too, is likely to* make the most of Tore Andre Flo's six-week absence by putting himself straight into the first team.

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## Santer agrees EU clean-up

■ All European Union staff are to be bound by a code of conduct designed to curb corruption, nepotism and mismanagement under reforms accepted by Jacques Santer to avoid censure and the dismissal of all European Commissioners.

The Commission President also accepted a proposal from the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder for a high-level review of the Commission's workings by the Parliament and member states....Pages 1, 11

## Beachy Head crumbles

■ Safety experts were examining Beachy Head after a section of rockface crashed into the sea in what could be Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory. The unmanned lighthouse has been effectively rejoined to the Sussex coast after thousands of tonnes of chalk fell 500ft into the sea....Page 1

### Yemeni charges

Five Britons detained in Yemen on suspicion of plotting terrorist outrages are likely to be charge within 48 hours, Robin Cook told the Commons....Page 1

### Blair gamble

Tony Blair put the beleaguered National Health Service at the heart of his attempt to reassert the Government's authority....Page 1

### Muslim violence

A radical London-based Muslim organisation has a website which depicts a hand grenade and promotes the use of violence..Page 3

### Mandelson's hope

Peter Mandelson could be back in the Cabinet before the end of next year. The timing of such a return would allow the former Trade Secretary to perform a high-profile role in the run up to the next general election....Page 2

### Boot camp praised

Offenders at the only "boot camp" in England and Wales have praised the tough regime of drill and physical exercise provided there, according to an inspection report....Page 4

### Policeman accused

A police officer stole £700 from an 83-year-old disabled woman after calling at her home to give advice on crime prevention, a court was told....Page 5

### Farmer Bell

Martin Bell, the Independent MP, is about to be overshadowed once more by his late father. Adrian Bell's bestselling book, *Corduroy*, telling how he came to live and work on a small Suffolk farm, has returned to print for the first time in 20 years....Page 6

### Teacher's trauma

A teacher who helped to identify dead and injured children after the Dunblane massacre has been awarded compensation for mental trauma, while some bereaved families have yet to receive a penny....Page 7

### Brown's defence

Gordon Brown mounted a strong defence of new Labour and heaped praise on Tony Blair's modernising in a bid to reassure the public that there was no rift between them....Page 8

### Iraqi targets

American warplanes fired on Iraqi missile batteries and Kuwait put some of its forces on "maximum alert" in two attacks as tension escalated with a defiant Baghdad....Page 9

### Freetown fighting

Fierce fighting flared up again in Freetown as Nigerian-led intervention forces launched a counter-attack to drive rebels from the port and eastern part of Sierra Leone's capital....Page 10

## Guardians of the lost Ark

■ For nearly 3,000 years, as fans of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* might know, people have been searching for the lost Ark of the Covenant. In Ethiopia, however, the search for the chest containing the Ten Commandments never began. The Ethiopians believe that the Holy Ark has been been with them all along, or at least since it was removed from Jerusalem....Page 10



The six sets of twins and one set of triplets ranging in age from five to nine,at Mornington Primary School, Nuthall, Nottinghamshire

**Tobacco merger:** British American Tobacco announced a £15 billion merger with Rothmans International, which will have a 16 per cent share of the worldwide cigarette market....Page 25.

**Goldman coup:** The chief executive of Goldman Sachs was pushed aside in an internal power struggle yesterday after forcing the investment banking partnership into an ill-fated flotation....Page 25

**Post charge:** The Post Office and the Government were attacked for secrecy over the first big overseas postal purchase — thought to be worth up to £375 million....Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE100 fell 62.2 to 6085.0. The pound fell .01 cents to $1.6400 and rose .06p to 70.34p against the euro....Page 28.

**Cricket:** England recorded their second win in two matches in the triangular series in Australia when they beat Sri Lanka by four wickets with three balls to spare....Page 48

**Football:** Ron Atkinson's appointment as manager of Nottingham Forest was confirmed. He will begin the job on Friday, the day before his new team, in bottom place, plays the reigning Premiership champions, Arsenal....Page 48

**Rugby league:** Maurice Lindsay is to step down after spending 20 years at the forefront of the British game....Page 45

**Racing:** Jockeys, who break the whip rules in big races from March 1 could be given a lengthy ban. The offending rider will be referred to the Jockey Club....Page 43

**Comic cuts:** Liz Lochhead's warm play *Perfect Days* arrives in London from its Edinburgh success, with Siobhan Redmond playing celebrity hairdresser Barbs, desperate for a baby....Page 32

**Music, maestros:** The PLG Young Artists Series continues with an impressive performance of Ives by an Australian pianist. The Hallé pays homage to Catalonia....Page 32

**Saatchi says:** Not content with collecting contemporary art by the truckload, Charles Saatchi has now named an entire art movement — Neurotic Realism....Page 33

**White magic:** The dance form butoh has come a long way since its birth in Japan in the 1950s, as Sadler's Wells audiences will discover from Sankai Juku....Page 34

**Live longer:** In the second extract from his book, the scientist Tom Kirkwood discusses anti-ageing foods and supplements....Page 14

**Doing time:** Zimmer frames in the cell blocks: the sort of depressing sight to which General Sir David Ramsbotham, has become inured since he became Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons....Page 15

**Mummy's boy:** Every woman knows that for all their talk of independent lifestyles, men just want to be mothered....Page 15

**IT boost:** An extra £20 million will be provided to help small firms to take advantage of electronic commerce....Page 21

**Temple talk:** "Not for years has an issue so dominated talk in the Temple and divided the talkers so deeply as the rights and wrongs of the Pinochet affair," writes Sir Louis Blom-Cooper....Page 37

Binyamin Netanyahu's original political patron, Moshe Arens, will be running against him in the party primary on January 25, it was confirmed yesterday. He will thus join MK Uzi Landau in challenging the increasingly beleaguered Netanyahu for the Likud leadership.

— *The Jerusalem Post*

**TOMORROW**

## IN THE TIMES

**INTERFACE**

■ IT and the art of dreams. Plus, helping the blind to join the Internet

**HOMES**

■ For sale, London's most splendid town house

**Review:** The effects of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (ITV, 10.40) **Review:** *The League of Gentlemen* already has the feel of a cult show, says Joe Joseph....Pages 46, 47

### A fresh wind

With Labour always looking for a fresh wind, Mr Blair could let Mr Mandelson loose on campaigning before the election. But even "the last lot" would not have countenanced a return to office so soon after such a disgrace....Page 17

### Real Germans

Germany is one of the few countries in Western Europe that still equates citizenship with blood and soil. Apart from the unpleasant association with racial purity, the law is patently unsuited to today's conditions....Page 17

### Once two is two

Numeracy is a basic skill which every parent expects their child to acquire, and which too many schools are failing to impart....Page 17

### LIBBY PURVES

The only test of any action is whether it does good; and who can possibly benefit from this post-marital character assassination?....Page 16

### JAMES LAUGHLAND

The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold coin, the sovereign; and banknotes should be issued which are convertible on demand into it....Page 16

### MICHAEL GOVE

Are the members of the Labour Party, and the readers of *The Guardian* aware of the obsessions which grip the leader of their party and their paper's editor?....Page 16

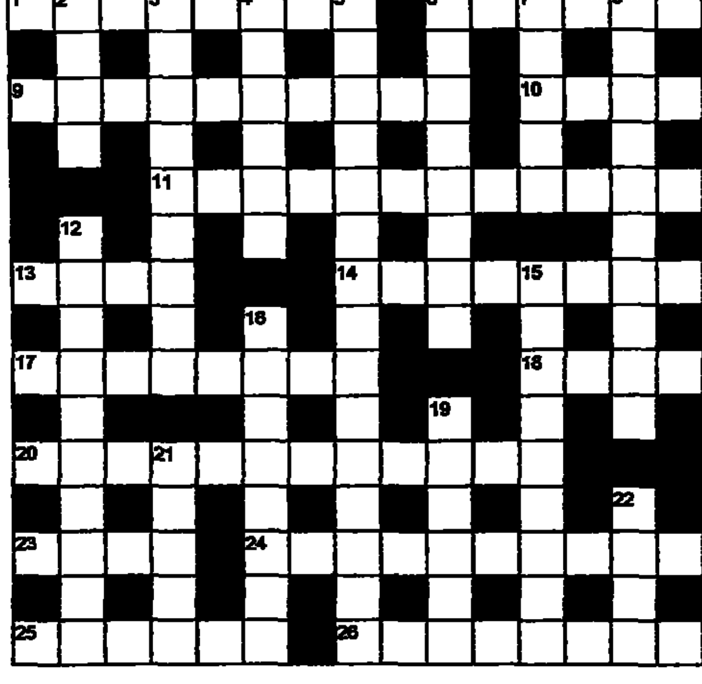
### PETER RIDDELL

In the end, everything that matters in this Government comes back to Gordon Brown....Page 8

**Colonel Anthony Simmonds,** MI9 officer; **Jean-Claude Forest,** cartoonist; **Professor Tadeus Rybczynski,** economist....Page 19

Nurses; term-time holidays; officers' origins; religion; interest rates; honour in politics....Page 17

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,998



**ACROSS**

1 A revolutionary objective rejected in educational setting (8).
6 Period of abstinence in extremes of poverty is quite enough (6).
9 Gambler offering odds against Euro-currency taking pound to a peak (10).
10 See red coming into fashion (4).
11 Dreadfully sad once I lost? (12).
13 Crew throwing individual in ocean (4).
14 Regular soldiers, though, do cross (8).
17 An awful lot eater put into stomach (8).
18 Induced doctor to join partnership (4).
20 Confusion produced by less disciplined troops in venture (12).
23 Hash available in eating-place (4).
24 Secret writing found in vault given zero weight (10).
25 Dormant reptile has secured shelter (6).
26 Looking gloomy – it's depressing (8)

**DOWN**

2 Cloak many copy (4).
3 Decline of new church seen, a number of years earlier (9).
4 Like the issue of mixed parentage, difficult to handle (6).
5 Early star or moon confused eminent watcher of the skies (10,5).
6 Mistletoe, say, supplied by the host (8).
7 Learning to climb, put name in register (5).
8 Highly-strung performers' lines (10).
12 Stream goes irregularly into large fuel tanks (10).
15 New store glad to get such an experienced person (3,6).
16 Race drivers, of course, are rated by it (8).
19 Town centre pursuing supreme award (6).
21 Publish thin paper without leader (5).
22 The thread of a story (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 20,997

APPLAUD DIGRESS
R A G R O E Y H
CONGENIAL OPERA
H N N V L M S N
INTHESAMEBOAT
L E W R T R Y
EUROPEAN ARDENT
T L Y B I O
TISSUE CRACKJAW
E M N C O U N
ROUNDTHECLOCK
H D E E C I E S
ELGAR QUODLIBET
A E E U L E O U
DESERVE INDEXED

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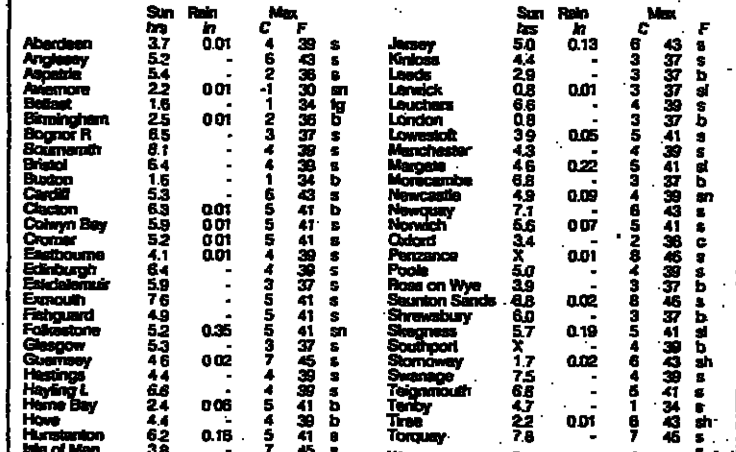
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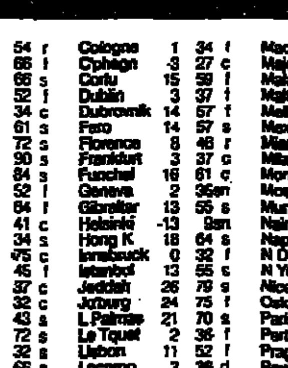
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☐ **General:** rain in all areas, briefly preceded by snow in Scotland, Wales, and western and northern England, especially on hills. Drier overnight except in Northern Ireland and western Scotland.

☐ **London, SE & E England, E Anglia:** starting dry and cold. Heavy rain by afternoon. Wind fresh SW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Central S England, Midlands:** heavy rain, snow on higher ground, drier later. Wind fresh S. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Channel Islands:** heavy rain clearing later. Wind fresh S. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **SW, NW, Central N & NE England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rain and hill-snow, then sunny spells and showers. Wind fresh SW to W. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** heavy rain and snow then sunny spells and showers. Wind strong SE to W. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain and snow clearing to sunny spells and blustery showers. Wind strong SE to W. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** breezy with frequent showers, some heavy. Wind fresh to strong, W to NW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** breezy with sunny spells and showers. Wind fresh W. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, especially in northwest. Wind strong NW. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** wet and windy.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

| | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | Max F | | | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | Max F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 3.7 | 0.01 | 4 | 39 | s | Jersey | 5.0 | 0.13 | 6 | 43 | s |
| Anglesey | 5.2 | - | 6 | 43 | s | Kinloss | 4.4 | - | 3 | 37 | s |
| Aspatria | 5.4 | - | 2 | 36 | s | Leeds | 2.9 | - | 3 | 37 | b |
| Aviemore | 2.2 | 0.01 | -1 | 30 | sn | Lerwick | 0.8 | 0.01 | 3 | 37 | sl |
| Belfast | 1.6 | - | 1 | 34 | fg | Leuchars | 6.6 | - | 4 | 39 | s |
| Birmingham | 2.5 | 0.01 | 2 | 36 | b | London | 0.8 | - | 3 | 37 | b |
| Bognor R | 6.5 | - | 3 | 37 | s | Lowestoft | 3.9 | 0.05 | 5 | 41 | s |
| Bournemth | 8.1 | - | 4 | 39 | s | Manchester | 4.3 | - | 4 | 39 | s |
| Bristol | 6.4 | - | 4 | 39 | s | Margate | 4.6 | 0.22 | 5 | 41 | sl |
| Buxton | 1.6 | - | 1 | 34 | b | Morecambe | 6.8 | - | 3 | 37 | b |
| Cardiff | 5.3 | - | 6 | 43 | s | Newcastle | 4.9 | 0.09 | 4 | 39 | sn |
| Clacton | 6.3 | 0.01 | 5 | 41 | b | Newquay | 7.1 | - | 6 | 43 | s |
| Colwyn Bay | 5.9 | 0.01 | 5 | 41 | s | Norwich | 5.6 | 0.07 | 5 | 41 | s |
| Cromer | 5.2 | 0.01 | 5 | 41 | s | Oxford | 3.4 | - | 2 | 36 | c |
| Eastbourne | 4.1 | 0.01 | 4 | 39 | s | Penzance | X | 0.01 | 8 | 46 | s |
| Edinburgh | 6.4 | - | 4 | 39 | s | Poole | 5.0 | - | 4 | 39 | s |
| Eskdalemuir | 5.9 | - | 3 | 37 | s | Ross on Wye | 3.9 | - | 3 | 37 | b |
| Exmouth | 7.6 | - | 5 | 41 | s | Saunton Sands | 6.8 | 0.02 | 8 | 46 | s |
| Fishguard | 4.9 | - | 5 | 41 | s | Shrewsbury | 6.0 | - | 3 | 37 | b |
| Folkestone | 5.2 | 0.35 | 5 | 41 | sn | Skegness | 5.7 | 0.19 | 5 | 41 | sl |
| Glasgow | 5.3 | - | 3 | 37 | s | Southport | X | - | 4 | 39 | b |
| Guernsey | 4.6 | 0.02 | 7 | 45 | s | Stornoway | 1.7 | 0.02 | 6 | 43 | sh |
| Hastings | 4.4 | - | 4 | 39 | s | Swanage | 7.5 | - | 4 | 39 | s |
| Hayling I | 6.6 | - | 4 | 39 | s | Teignmouth | 6.8 | - | 5 | 41 | s |
| Herne Bay | 2.4 | 0.06 | 5 | 41 | b | Tenby | 4.7 | - | 1 | 34 | s |
| Hove | 4.4 | - | 4 | 39 | b | Tiree | 2.2 | 0.01 | 6 | 43 | sh |
| Hunstanton | 6.2 | 0.15 | 5 | 41 | s | Torquay | 7.8 | - | 7 | 45 | s |
| Isle of Man | 3.8 | - | 7 | 45 | s | Weymouth | 7.5 | - | 5 | 41 | s |
| Isle of Wight | X | - | 3 | 37 | b | | | | | | |

Yesterday's highest day temp: Penzance 8C (46F); Lowest Aviemore -1C (30F); Highest rainfall Folkestone 0.35ins; Sunniest Torquay 7.8hrs

| | C | F | | | C | F | | | C | F | | | C | F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajaccio | 12 | 54 | r | Cologne | 1 | 34 | f | Madrid | 7 | 45 | f | Rome | 13 | 55 | r |
| Akrotiri | 19 | 66 | f | C'phagn | -3 | 27 | c | Majorca | 13 | 55 | f | Salzburg | 3 | 37 | f |
| Alexdria | 19 | 66 | s | Corfu | 15 | 59 | f | Malaga | 12 | 54 | s | S Frisco | 7 | 45 | s |
| Algiers | 11 | 52 | f | Dublin | 3 | 37 | f | Malta | 16 | 61 | f | Santiago | 26 | 79 | s |
| Amst'dm | 1 | 34 | c | Dubrovnik | 14 | 57 | f | Melbourne | X | | | S Paulo | X | X | X |
| Athens | 16 | 61 | s | Faro | 14 | 57 | s | Mexico C | 13 | 55 | s | Seoul | -3 | 27 | s |
| Bahrain | 22 | 72 | s | Florence | 8 | 46 | r | Miami | 18 | 64 | f | Singapore | 26 | 79 | r |
| Bangkok | 32 | 90 | s | Frankfurt | 3 | 37 | c | Milan | 6 | 43 | r | Stockholm | -9 | 16 | s |
| Barbados | 29 | 84 | s | Funchal | 16 | 61 | c | Montreal | -14 | 7 | s | Strasb'rg | 3 | 37 | c |
| Barcelona | 11 | 52 | f | Geneva | 2 | 36 | sn | Moscow | -9 | 16 | sn | Sydney | 24 | 75 | c |
| Beirut | 18 | 64 | f | Gibraltar | 13 | 55 | s | Munich | 4 | 39 | f | Tangier | 14 | 57 | f |
| Belgrade | 5 | 41 | c | Helsinki | -13 | 9 | sn | Nairobi | 26 | 79 | f | Tel Aviv | 18 | 64 | s |
| Berlin | 1 | 34 | s | Hong K | 18 | 64 | s | Naples | X | | | Tenerife | 22 | 72 | f |
| Bermuda | 24 | 75 | c | Innsbruck | 0 | 32 | f | N Delhi | 14 | 57 | f | Tokyo | 8 | 46 | s |
| Biarritz | 7 | 45 | f | Istanbul | 13 | 55 | s | N York | -3 | 27 | s | Toronto | -9 | 16 | s |
| Bordeaux | 3 | 37 | c | Jeddah | 26 | 79 | s | Nice | 7 | 45 | r | Tunis | 17 | 63 | s |
| Brussels | 0 | 32 | c | Jo'burg | 24 | 75 | f | Oslo | -9 | 16 | c | Valencia | 12 | 54 | s |
| Budapest | 6 | 43 | s | L Palmas | 21 | 70 | s | Paris | 0 | 32 | c | Vanc'ver | 5 | 41 | r |
| B Aires | 22 | 72 | s | Le Touqet | 2 | 36 | f | Perth | X | | | Venice | 5 | 41 | f |
| Beijing | 0 | 32 | s | Lisbon | 11 | 52 | f | Prague | 0 | 32 | c | Vienna | 5 | 41 | s |
| Cairo | 19 | 66 | s | Locarno | 2 | 36 | d | Reykjavik | 0 | 32 | f | Warsaw | -4 | 25 | c |
| Cape Tn | 17 | 63 | c | L Angeles | 19 | 66 | s | Rhodes | 17 | 63 | f | Wash'ton | -2 | 28 | s |
| Chicago | -11 | 12 | s | Luxembg | 0 | 32 | c | Rio de J | 28 | 82 | f | Zurich | 2 | 36 | c |
| Ch'church | X | | | Luxor | 4 | 39 | c | Riyadh | 18 | 64 | s | | | | |

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X – not available



Changes to chart below from noon: Low A moves NE and deepens. Low K fills in situ. Low G edges NE with little change in pressure.





| TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT | TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 8:30 | 3.4 | 20:52 | 3.5 | Liverpool | 5:50 | 7.3 | 18:19 | 7.3 |
| Avonmouth | 1:12 | 9.8 | 13:41 | 9.8 | London Bridge | 8:17 | 5.8 | 20:56 | 5.9 |
| Belfast | 6:06 | 2.8 | 18:20 | 3.1 | Lowestoft | 3:46 | 2.2 | 17:20 | 2.1 |
| Cardiff | 0:58 | 9.2 | 13:27 | 9.2 | Margate | 6:29 | 3.9 | 19:19 | 3.9 |
| Devonport | - | - | 12:11 | 4.5 | Milford Haven | 0:34 | 5.2 | 13:03 | 5.3 |
| Dover | 5:40 | 5.4 | 18:25 | 5.2 | Newquay | - | - | 12:04 | 5.4 |
| Dublin | 6:48 | 3.4 | 19:16 | 3.5 | Oban | 0:23 | 3.0 | 12:48 | 3.0 |
| Falmouth | 11:42 | 4.3 | - | - | Penzance | 11:37 | 4.4 | - | - |
| Greenock | 7:17 | 2.8 | 18:51 | 2.9 | Portland | 1:03 | 1.3 | 13:09 | 1.3 |
| Harwich | 5:57 | 3.2 | 18:45 | 3.1 | Portsmouth | 6:20 | 3.9 | 18:46 | [illegible] |
| Holyhead | 5:17 | 4.4 | 17:39 | 4.5 | Shoreham | 5:51 | 4.9 | 18:06 | [illegible] |
| Hull (Albert D) | 0:20 | 7.3 | 13:09 | 6.9 | Southampton | 5:48 | 3.7 | 18:17 | 3.5 |
| Ilfracombe | 0:15 | 6.9 | 12:45 | 6.9 | Swansea | 0:36 | 10.0 | 13:06 | 10.1 |
| King's Lynn | 0:36 | 4.9 | 13:45 | 4.8 | Tees | 10:49 | 8.9 | 23:11 | 9.0 |
| Leith | 9:30 | 4.4 | 22:00 | 4.5 | Walton-On-Naze | 6:02 | 3.5 | 18:48 | 3.4 |

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES 2

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**LAW**
How Lord Hoffmann raised a host of issues
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**TELEVISION AND RADIO**
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JANUARY 12 1999

# Corzine loses out in Goldman Sachs shake-up

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

JON CORZINE, the Goldman Sachs chief executive, was pushed aside in an internal power struggle yesterday after forcing the investment banking partnership into an ill-fated flotation.

John Thornton, the Laura Ashley chairman and a senior partner, will become co-chief operating officer and is being lined up as a future head of the top Wall Street house.

Mr Corzine, 52, had been the chief architect of the postponed $30 billion (£18 billion) flotation that would subject the business to the public scrutiny of shareholders.

The controversial flotation was put on hold in the autumn after market turmoil had reduced the potential windfall. The 250 partners were set to be given equity stakes ranging from $50 million up to a rumoured $1 billion for Mr Corzine.

Mr Corzine, who will remain a partner, said: "I believe that this is in the best long-term interest of the firm. I will now concentrate my energies on successfully completing our initial public offering." Goldman has not yet rescheduled the flotation.

The post of chief executive will be filled by Hank Paulson. Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson will continue to be co-chairmen. Mr Corzine will not receive a payoff.

Mr Thornton will share the post of co-chief operating officer with John Thain. A Goldman statement said they would have "broad responsibilities for the entire firm, across all divisions and regions". Insiders see this as a clear hint that Mr Thornton and Mr Thain are set to rise further to the top.

Mr Thornton holds the post of managing director at Goldman Sachs International, the London subsidiary.

Goldman's senior management committees were also reshuffled yesterday. The all-powerful executive committee, a six-man cabal that vetted all executive decisions, will be replaced by a new management committee of which Mr Corzine will not be a member.

Mr Paulson said: "The best time for transition is during a period of great strength. We believe the appointments and the evolution of the governance of the firm will strengthen our management focus and keep the firm on a solid foundation."

## January sale fails to lift Austin Reed

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

AUSTIN REED, the clothing retailer, issued a profits warning yesterday after its January sale fell flat.

The company said that after a dismal run-up to Christmas, the anticipated rush of customers to its sale had failed to materialise.

Colin Evans, chairman, said: "There has been too much discounting through the season and the bi-annual sales have much less impact." The company brought forward its final discounts to try to clear stock before the new season. Mr Evans said that levels were now under control and margins have been maintained.

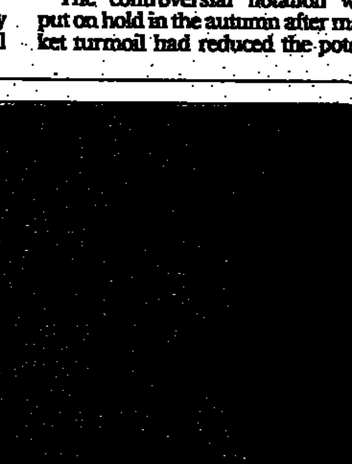
Like-for-like sales for the half year to January 31 are likely to be 12 per cent below last year, Austin Reed said. The sale period taken alone fared even worse. Interim pre-tax profit is expected to be between £6 million and £6.5 million, the company said, compared with forecasts of nearer £9 million.

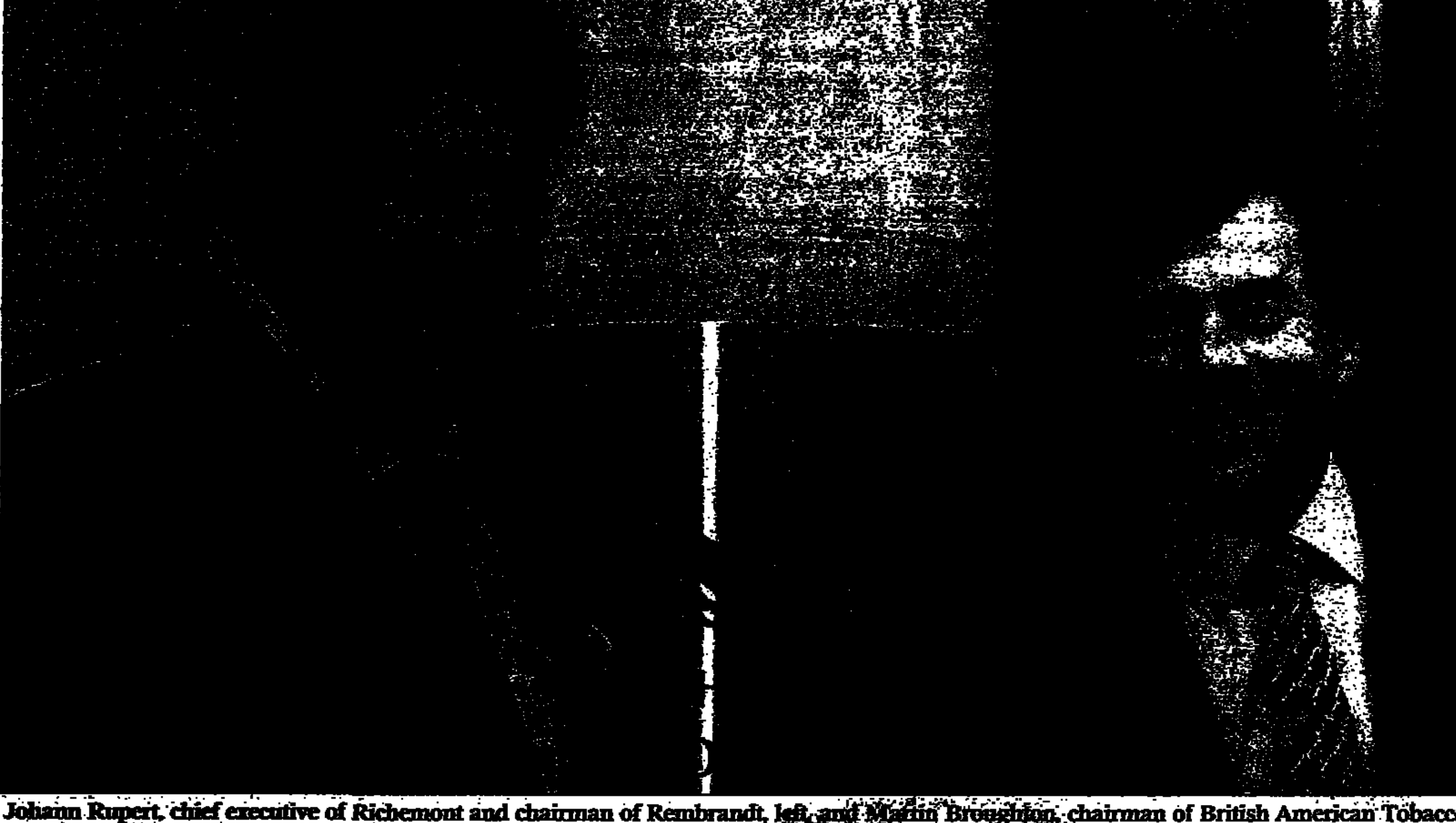
Austin Reed also announced that it is closing a shirt factory in Ireland's Co Donegal, with the loss of 136 jobs.

Wm Morrison, the supermarkets group based in Yorkshire, said that like-for-like sales in the five weeks to January 3 were 3.4 per cent higher, boosting its own shares by 10½p to 297p and lifting the whole food retail sector.

Elsewhere, Ottakar's, the booksellers, said like-for-like sales in the six weeks to January 2 were 6.3 per cent higher, while Majestic Wine saw its like-for-like sales up 2.7 per cent in the nine weeks to January 4. Merchant Retail Group, which owns the Perfume Shop and Joplings department stores, saw like-for-like sales up 6.2 per cent in the five weeks to January 2.

PETER TREVNOR





Johann Rupert, chief executive of Richemont and chairman of Rembrandt, left, and Martin Broughton, chairman of British American Tobacco

# Tobacco merger will cost thousands of jobs

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of jobs are likely to be lost worldwide as a result of the £15 billion merger of cigarette giants British American Tobacco and Rothmans International.

BAT admitted yesterday that jobs would be cut, but refused to be drawn on where the axe would fall. Together the two employ 70,000 people around the world, and about 5,500 in the UK.

Despite its name BAT neither produces nor sells cigarettes in the UK. Rothmans, has production facilities and 1,200 jobs in the Prime Minister's constituency in Co Durham, which may be hit. Rothmans also employs people at Southampton. Head office personnel from both companies are also likely to be at risk.

Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT, said there would be annual cost savings of £250 million. The deal would also enhance earnings in the year to December 2000 but give rise to £400 million of one-off charges.

BAT shares jumped 15 per cent to 625p. Since October 1997, when the company revealed plans to demerge its financial services businesses, shareholders — who now hold shares in the separately quoted companies BAT and Allied Zurich — have seen the value of their investments rise 46 per cent.

The Rothmans merger is an all-share deal and using BAT's opening share price yesterday the value of Rothmans was £4.6 billion and the worth of the combined business £13 billion. However, because of the rise in the BAT share price Rothmans' value rose to £5.3 billion by the close and the combination to nearly £15 billion.

The link with Rothmans confounds speculation that BAT was looking to combine with Reynolds, the US tobacco firm owned by RJR Nabisco.

The Rothmans deal was presented as a merger but most observers see it as a takeover by BAT of Rothmans. The name of the business will remain BAT, and the senior board positions will remain unchanged.

Rothmans is owned by Richemont, the luxury goods group based in Switzerland, and Rembrandt, a South African combine. Both are controlled by the South African Rupert family. They will own 35 per cent of the enlarged BAT. However, its voting rights are to be restricted to 25 per cent.

Johann Rupert, Richemeont chief executive, said that BAT had offered to pay cash instead of issuing shares. But Richemont and Rembrandt were keen to maintain the fullest exposure to the ongoing business. They also said that they intended to be "long-term, supportive investors".

Mr Rupert said: "The long-term interests of the Rothmans Group are best served by being part of a larger tobacco business which will have enhanced market positions and greater scale of operations."

BAT is already the world's third-largest cigarette seller. The acquisition of Rothmans will take it closer to Philip Morris, however. The state-owned Chinese tobacco company is the world's biggest producer.

Competition issues in various parts of the world means BAT may have to sell off parts of the business. The combined group will have 90 per cent of the South African market, 60 per cent in Australia and 80 per cent of Canada.

The deal will also be inspected by European competition authorities.

Commentary, page 27

## Business optimism boosted by MPC rate cuts

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

BUSINESS optimism picked up late last year despite expectations of a sharp economic slowdown in 1999, largely because of the Monetary Policy Committee's willingness to cut interest rates.

The Institute of Directors' latest quarterly survey showed that business optimism improved slightly last month after dramatic falls in confidence in the previous two. Similarly, firms in the financial sector, surveyed by the Confederation of British Industry and PricewaterhouseCoopers, said that they expected a sharp slowdown in business and significant job losses in the first quarter but were less gloomy than they were in September.

Ruth Lea, Head of the Policy Unit at the IoD, attributed this to lower rates and said the institute was confident recession would be avoided in the UK economy. She noted, however, that manufacturing industry is already in recession, a view supported by figures from the Office for National Statistics yesterday. They showed that manufacturing output fell 0.2 per cent in November compared with October, the fourth successive monthly fall.

The economy as a whole may have narrowly escaped a contraction in the final quarter of last year. Based on yesterday's output figures, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research yesterday estimated that growth in the three months to December was a marginal 0.1 per cent.

The British Retail Consortium said retail sales in December had shown no growth from a year ago and sales fell 0.3 per cent on average in the three months to December, the worst performance since the BRC figures started in March 1994.

The ONS said output prices in December were no higher than a year ago, the best performance for 40 years. In addition, Incomes Data Services indicated that wage deals are beginning to fall.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCKMARKET INDICES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FTSE 100 | 6085.0 | (-62.2) |
| Yield | 2.69% | |
| FTSE All Share | 2762.73 | (-21.95) |
| Nikkei | 13368.48 | (-23.33) |
| New York: | | |
| Dow Jones | 9574.07 | (-69.25)* |
| S&P Composite | 1261.40 | (-13.69)* |

US RATE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Federal Funds | [illegible]%* | ([illegible]%) |
| Long bond | 99[illegible]* | (99[illegible]) |
| Yield | 5.30%* | (5.28%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3-mth interbank | 5[illegible]% | (5[illegible]%) |
| Liffe long gilt future (Mar) | 119.24 | (119.64) |

STERLING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New York: | | |
| $ | 1.6379* | (1.6410) |
| London: | | |
| $ | 1.6401 | (1.6403) |
| € | 1.4220 | (1.4199) |
| SFr | 2.2922 | (2.2896) |
| Yen | 179.30 | (182.79) |
| £ Index | 99.0 | (99.2) |

DOLLAR

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London: | | |
| € | 1.1535* | (1.1575) |
| SFr | 1.3965* | (1.3947) |
| Yen | 108.78* | (110.90) |
| $ Index | 103.0 | (103.7) |

Tokyo close Yen 110.40

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent 15-day (Mar) | $12.10 | ($11.55) |

GOLD

| | |
|---|---|
| London close | $292.70 ($291.45) |

Exchange rates ....... Page 26

* denotes midday trading prices

## Lukewarm reaction to Enterprise Lasmo deal

BY CARL MORTISHED

INSTITUTIONS have given a lukewarm reception to the news that Enterprise Oil and Lasmo are in merger talks. Pierre Jungels, chief executive of Enterprise, said that shareholders had not responded positively to the news.

Shares of Lasmo gained 12 per cent to 106½p yesterday on speculation that Enterprise would offer a premium to seal a deal. In turn, Enterprise shares lost 9p to 278p. Some analysts said the savings from combining the two companies would be minimal. Instead, the City is hoping that a bid will come from a third party with Agip, Elf and Statoil mentioned alongside smaller US integrated companies.

Mark Ianotti, of Credit Suisse First Boston, said: I think the chances are high of a cash bidder coming in. There is less than a 50 per cent chance of these companies merging."

Commentary, page 27
Tempus, page 28

# Post Office attacked for secrecy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Post Office and the Government were attacked for secrecy over the first big overseas postal purchase — thought to be worth up to £375 million.

The Post Office confirmed its purchase of German Parcel, Germany's fourth biggest parcel company, in a deal that was approved by the Government several weeks ago. The purchase will be funded by Post Office reserves, money borrowed commercially and money borrowed from the Government. Neither the Government nor the Post Office would say what proportion of the cash was coming from where because of commercial sensitivity. John Redwood, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "Why won't they tell us how much it is costing, how much public money is in there and the risk to the taxpayer?"

A spokesman for UPS, the postal and parcel service, said: "We were promised effective regulation. How can we see that operating if the Government doesn't say how much money it is putting into purchases?"

John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, said Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, had been told of the German talks in the autumn. Mr Mandelson gave the Post Office greater commercial freedom last month but he would not detail the extent of the freedom.

Commentary, page 27

# Shareholders urge Mirror deal

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

LARGE shareholders of Mirror Group believe merger talks with Trinity, the regional newspaper group, should resume as soon as possible.

Phillips & Drew, the largest Mirror shareholder with 22 per cent, says a deal with Trinity is the best option for the company, publisher of *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *The People* and Scotland's *Daily Record*.

P&D yesterday made it clear it would be unhappy if corporate "cultural differences" were to stand in the way of a deal. On Sunday, Trinity said it had withdrawn from talks with immediate effect.

The Mirror board issued a statement to staff that said the rationale for talks with Trinity was based on replicating the integration of Mirror Group and Midland Independent Newspapers on a larger scale.

Trinity, the largest UK regional newspaper group, is ready to accept Sir Victor Blank, Mirror Group chairman, as non-executive chairman of the enlarged group but would insist that Philip Graf, its chief executive, should be chief executive. David Montgomery, Mirror Group chief executive, would stand down once integration of the two companies was complete. Mirror shares rose 4p yesterday to 166p, still well below last year's peak of 248p. Trinity shares fell 1½p to 428½p.

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# Court is cleared in Microsoft hearing

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

SECRET Microsoft pricing data was yesterday presented as evidence of the software company's monopoly power in the historic anti-trust trial.

The court was ordered into closed session when the Justice Department lawyers revealed that they had subpoenaed contracts and wholesale pricing information that shows Microsoft can freely raise the price of Windows, the operating system used on 90 per cent of the world's personal computers.

Microsoft had insisted the court be cleared before the evidence was heard because of its sensitive nature. The records were seized last autumn.

According to insiders, government lawyers compared the price at which Dell and Compaq, two companies close to Microsoft, buy Windows with the price paid by IBM and Gateway 2000.

The bulk of Windows sales are directly to manufacturers who are contractually obliged to pay Microsoft a licence fee for every computer sold that is loaded with the operating system. A computer without Windows is almost unsaleable in today's market.

The pricing data, the last evidence to be presented by the Justice Department before Microsoft presents its witnesses, could be a vital building block in the anti-trust case.

One of the economic definitions of a monopoly is that the company in question can raise prices without losing market share. The Justice Department has previously declared that relative to other software products Windows' retail price has gone up in recent years. Microsoft replied that it kept the retail price constant while adding features.

But the different prices offered to manufacturers are seen as clear evidence that Microsoft uses the power of Windows to force companies into alliances that help it to dominate other markets.

The Justice Department argued Dell and Compaq "earned" the lower prices by promoting other Microsoft products. The regulators are trying to prove that Microsoft is acting like a predator and needs to be restrained. Halfway through the trial, observers say that the Justice Department has presented a convincing case.

The Consumer Federation of America yesterday claimed that Microsoft has overcharged customers worldwide by $10 billion (£6 billion) in recent years. Mark Cooper, the CFA research director, said: "Microsoft is keeping prices high while costs are going down."

Microsoft denied the charges and said it offered consumers a good deal. The cost of an average PC is increased by about $50 if loaded with Windows. A Windows 98 upgrade costs about $90 in the shops.

# French launch £680m bid for English China Clays

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

IMETAL, the French conglomerate, swooped on English China Clays yesterday, with a £680 million cash offer for the industrial minerals company.

The French bidder is attempting to bypass the ECC management with its 225p per share offer after it failed to get a decision from the ECC board after a meeting last week.

ECC quickly rejected the offer yesterday, saying it "fails by a wide margin to reflect the value of the company's business and prospects". Denis Rediker, chief executive, said the company needed time to evaluate the offer. "They attempted to hold a gun to our heads and demanded a response in 48 hours."

News of the bid caused ECC's lacklustre shares to spring into action, rising 51 per cent to 242p. Shares in the British company, which processes minerals used in the paper and water treatment industries, have suffered from pricing pressure in kaolin and an expensive diversification into chemicals.

Analysts said that the share price was reflecting the expectation that Imetal would have to pay more to secure a board recommendation. However, a rival bid is thought unlikely and Imetal might have trouble increasing its cash bid which will send its gearing ratio to 120 per cent.

Imetal is quoted in Paris and controlled jointly by Paul Desmarais, chairman of Canada's Power Corporation, and Frere Group, the Belgian company that controls the interests of Baron Albert Frère. Imetal has a kaolin business but is also involved in metal processing and building materials.

Patrick Kron, Imetal's chief executive, lost no time in pouring scorn on ECC's record. He pointed to a 40 per cent negative shareholder return from ECC since January 1995, a period in which the return from the All-share index had doubled in value.

M Kron said that ECC had missed opportunities in its core white pigments business by failing to acquire a stake in the new Brazilian reserves and had failed to exploit its technology in precipitate calcium carbonate. He said: "They have boxed themselves into a corner."

Mr Rediker responded: "If there is a box, it would seem they are standing next to us in the corner."

The kaolin price has been under pressure for the past two years as vast new reserves in Brazil came on stream. It has also been affected by the substitution of calcium carbonate for kaolin by papermakers. Imetal has an interest in the Brazilian kaolin reserves.

M Kron criticised ECC for its acquistion of Calgon. "We don't see the impact of synergies." He said ECC had failed to participate in the industry consolidation in specialty chemicals.

Tempus, page 28

## Property group gets funding

Development Securities, the property group, yesterday announced the completion of a package of funding totalling £125 million. The medium-term debt financing programme includes £75 million from two new five to seven-year revolving bank facilities with HSBC Midland and Barclays. The company will use the additional bank facilities for portfolio acquisitions.

### ICI land sale

ICI Estates has completed the sale of four landholdings to Redrow Group, the housebuilder and commercial developer. The deal has realised £14.5 million in cash with additional payments of up to another £20 million dependent on planning consents. The sites include an area to the east of the M49 at Severnside and land in Harrogate that is the subject of proposals for retail development.

### Dairy Crest buy

Dairy Crest Group, the dairy food company, has bought Longs Dairies for £4 million in cash. The company said that Longs, which is based in Great Yarmouth, would strengthen its position as the leading supplier of milk to doorstep and retail customers in East Anglia. Longs Dairies had a turnover last year of £10.8 million

### Denmans ahead

Denmans Electrical, a supplier of lighting products, reported pre-tax profits up 17 per cent to £4.03 million for the year ended September 30. Earnings per share were 15.12p, from 13.66p last time. The recommended final dividend of 2.5p makes a total of 3.25p, an increase of 8 per cent.

### Clubhaus deal

Clubhaus, a European golf course owner-operator, has bought Tutzing Golf Course in Munich, Germany, for DM6.0 million (£2.2 million). It brings its total number of golf facilities to 19, four of which are in Germany.

### Hacas advances

Hacas, the property consultancy, yesterday announced a pre-tax profit of £640.407 for the year ended September 30, up from £511.000 last year. The results are the company's first since it reversed into AIM-listed General Industries in July 1998. No dividend was offered.

TRICIA JOHNSON

SHARES of Triad, the information technology group, fell 40p to 527½p yesterday on worries over the nature of its trading. Triad, whose chief executive is Mira Makar, above, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.8 million for the six months ended September 30, up from £2.9 million last time. Earnings per share were 10.3p (7.5p) and an interim dividend of 3p was offered (2p).

## Courtaulds issues profits warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COURTAULDS TEXTILES, one of Marks & Spencer's large suppliers, yesterday became the latest in a string of manufacturers to issue a profits warning, blaming weak demand from its UK customers.

The shares fell 13p to 160p as the company vowed to increase its production in countries with cheaper labour and infrastructure costs as part of its effort to resume profit growth.

The company, which bought Claremont Garments — another of Marks & Spencer's largest clothing suppliers — in October for £10 million, said pre-tax profits would be £36 million, about £2.5 million below City forecasts.

Courtaulds Textiles said that the international side of its business had generally performed well and helped to offset the weak UK autumn/winter sales. The French tights and lingerie businesses enjoyed good trade, but demand for European lace was "fragile", it said. Sales of stretch fabrics to Asia and the US were good.

Despite the difficult UK market, the company said it had ended the autumn/winter season with its stocks in line with targets. It also said that it was starting 1999 with full production schedules.

The company, which is announcing its preliminary results on March 11, said that the restructuring of Claremont, where 1,125 staff have been made redundant, should "quickly restore profitability".

## DTI calls for role in EdF's electricity bid

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE Government is urging the European Commission to let UK competition authorities vet the £1.9 billion takeover bid for London Electricity by Electricité de France.

The Department of Trade and Industry said its request relates to concerns it has in relation to the merger, which was announced on December 4.

*If the takeover is allowed it* will return London to state control as EdF is owned by the French Government. EdF effectively controls the interconnector, which transports power between Britain and France, because its cheap exports ensure effective one-way traffic.

The UK Government is likely to press for contracts to be renegotiated to boost the British power market.

The DTI wants the bid to be considered under the UK's Fair Trading Act. European *rules apply* when two member countries are involved in cross-border deals but the EU has allowed the UK to impose conditions in water industry bids.

## UK resumes aviation talks with America

BY OUR CITY STAFF

BRITAIN and the US are to make another attempt at liberalising their aviation market, with the resumption of trade talks next month, it was announced yesterday.

The first talks in 20 months were held in London last October, only to break up over US complaints of British intransigence, and delay further the proposed *alliance* between British Airways and American Airlines.

The main issue still centres on how to gain access to the congested runways of Heathrow, which ranks as Europe's most lucrative landfall for transatlantic carriers because of its business traffic.

Under the Bermuda II aviation agreement, only four airlines can operate transatlantic services out of Heathrow — BA, American Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and United Airlines.

The US says it needs an "open skies" trade agreement with Britain before the BA-American alliance can be approved. Britain says approval is an essential ingredient to an open skies deal.

## Volvo confirms talks with Fiat

VOLVO yesterday confirmed that it was in talks with Fiat after Giovanni Agnelli, chairman of the Italian carmaker, admitted that discussions had taken place between the two companies. Volvo shares plunged, however, slipping 5 per cent as the Swedish company insisted that the companies were not close to a deal.

Volvo is under pressure to find a partner among the larger manufacturers to reduce the cost of launching new models. Analysts have speculated that Ford would be a better big brother than Fiat as the former makes large cars and could share engines and drive systems. It would also give Volvo better access to the US market where it has less than one per cent of car sales. Other industry experts say Fiat and Volvo would complement each other, much as would have been the case if the once-planned alliance with Renault had been realised. The Renault-Volvo plan collapsed in 1993.

## New chief at Nissan UK

NISSAN UK, whose Sunderland plant is Europe's most productive car manufacturer, has appointed a new managing director. John Cushnaghan has been promoted from deputy managing director at Sunderland. The running of Sunderland has been relinquished by Sir Ian Gibson, who is overseeing Nissan's European strategy. Sir Ian, who was knighted in this New Year Honours for services to the car manufacturing industry, had been doing several jobs for some time. He has also ceased to run Nissan's plant in Barcelona.

## Lewis raises funds

HENRY LEWIS, founder and chairman of Action Computer Services, has raised £202,000 by selling almost half of his stake in Electronics Boutique. Mr Lewis, a non-executive director of the computer games retailer, said the disposal was for "personal and family reasons". He retains a £280,000 stake in Electronics Boutique, which returned an upbeat trading statement last week. Mr Lewis holds an 8.8 per cent stake in Action Computer Services, worth £6.1 million. He also sits on the board of Oasis, the fashion retailer.

## E*Trade Group loss

E*TRADE GROUP, the American online discount broker, reported a 63 per cent rise in revenues in the first quarter as it added 132,000 customer accounts. The company also reported a net loss of $13.2 million (£8 million) for the quarter, below Wall Street forecasts. The company, which reported a net profit of $5.1 million in the first quarter of the previous year, said active customer accounts increased 55 per cent during the fourth quarter, to 676,000 as of the end of December.

## Field in takeover talks

SHARES of Field Group rose 55p to 281½p after the specialist packaging business said it was in talks that could lead to a takeover bid being made. Field is valued at about £170 million at yesterday's closing price. The company's shares have fallen over the past 12 months in reaction to a decline in first-half profits and a warning on trading. Field's main attraction is its strength in European pharmaceuticals; however, its exposure to drinks and tobacco was blamed for the decline in profits.

## Zochonis warning

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, a household products manufacturer, said that it expects profits for the year to May 31, 1999, will be significantly down on the pre-tax figure of £32.7 million it reported last year. The company blamed adverse economic and trading conditions in China, Eastern Europe and Nigeria. Exceptional provisions of £6.3 million will be made. Zochonis said it expects an unchanged interim dividend, due February 16, of 5.85p a share for the six months to November 30, 1998.

## Inn Business expands

INN BUSINESS, the pub group, is to boost its 470-strong tenanted estate by acquiring Scorpio Inns, which operates 111 tenancies in the West of England and Wales. The company yesterday paid £500,000 for a 25.2 per cent stake in Scorpio and has an option to buy out the remainder before July next year for a maximum of £2.75 million plus working capital. If Scorpio fails to meet targets its shareholders will buy back the stake at par. Inn Business is also to dispose of its nine remaining unbranded managed houses.

## Central bankers meet

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, told central bankers meeting in Hong Kong that there were prospects for an easing in American economic growth, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said yesterday. Andrew Crockett, general manager of BIS, said Mr Greenspan told the 17 central bankers that growth would ease but would be satisfactory. Mr Crockett said central bankers at the meeting believed the global economic environment was "reasonably positive".

## Meridien for Taiwan

GRANADA'S Méridien Hotels chain will enter the Taiwanese market this week by taking over the Gloria Hotel in Taipei under a management contract. The four-star, 226-room hotel, owned by Tien-Kuei Chen, a local businessman, will undergo a $3 million-plus (£2.1 million) refurbishment. Le Méridien Gloria Taipei, as it will be rebranded, will be the chain's 104th hotel. Bernard Lambert, managing director, said: "It moves us closer to our target of 200 Méridien hotels in the next five years."

## Capital hit as oil price keeps high-rollers away

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Capital Corporation lost more than 10 per cent of their value yesterday as the London casino operator gave warning that the oil price fall was keeping Middle Eastern punters away.

Its shares shed 7p to 59½p as it forecast that 1998 operating profits would be just £8 million compared with £17.6 million the year before. Analysts are predicting that interest charges will restrict profits at the pre-tax level to just £5.5 million.

The scarcity of Middle Eastern punters is a blow given that Capital was already suffering from a lack of Asian high-rollers, who have been hit by the region's economic crisis. In a trading statement, it said: "The London gaming market remains depressed, with the level of high-roller play substantially reduced."

Hopes of a takeover are also fading. It is more than four months since Capital admitted that it had received a number of approaches, but yesterday it said: "These talks have not yet led to formal or indicative offers at a level that the board could recommend and it remains unclear whether such offers will be forthcoming."

Capital, which runs Crockfords, the Colony Club and the Cromwell Mint, has also been hit by last year's punitive rise in gaming duty which has added £2.5 million to its annual tax bill. However, it said the resilience of its business at the middle and lower end of the market allied to tighter cost controls had left it "well placed to take advantage of any upturn in high-roller activity".

## Airbus silent on shake-up as record sales achieved

BY ADAM JONES

AIRBUS Industrie reported record sales figures yesterday but remained tight-lipped about a massive restructuring currently being discussed by its four partners.

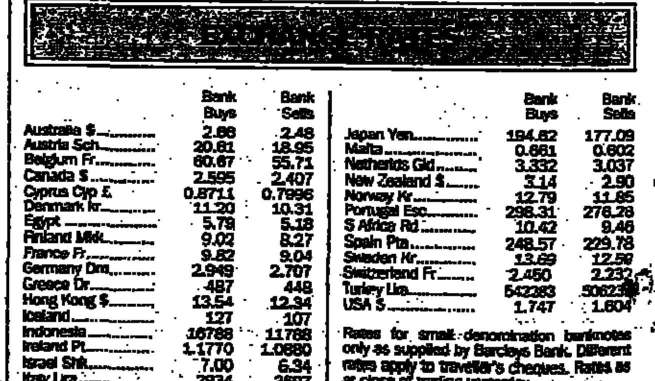
Airbus, owned by Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany, British Aerospace and Casa of Spain, took firm orders for 556 planes worth $39 billion (£24 billion) in 1998 — a year that may prove to be a peak in the aerospace industry cycle.

Airbus, which had previously had only 460 orders in its best year, claimed that it had cornered 45 per cent of the market for planes with more than 100 seats. Market share figures are a traditional bone of contention between Airbus and Boeing, its US rival.

Boeing objects to the Airbus practice of counting market share by the number of orders rather than their value. The latter would favour the bigger *planes sold by Boeing*, although Airbus is developing larger aircraft that will redress the balance.

An Airbus spokesman refused to specify when the planemaker's transformation into a more conventional company is expected to take place, beyond saying it would happen this year. Airbus, as a consortium, does not publish overall accounts.

The Asian economic crisis led to the cancellation of 14 orders for single-aisle aircraft. All were reallocated to other *airlines and Airbus says the* market potential in Asia is still attractive. The spokesman would not say if Airbus expected global orders to drop this year.



| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 2.68 | 2.48 |
| Austria Sch | 20.61 | 18.95 |
| Belgium Fr | 60.67 | 55.71 |
| Canada $ | 2.595 | 2.407 |
| Cyprus Cyp £ | 0.8711 | 0.7996 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.20 | 10.31 |
| Egypt | 5.79 | 5.18 |
| Finland Mkk | 9.02 | 8.27 |
| France Fr | 9.82 | 9.04 |
| Germany Dm | 2.949 | 2.707 |
| Greece Dr | 487 | 448 |
| Hong Kong $ | 13.54 | 12.34 |
| Iceland | 127 | 107 |
| Indonesia | 16788 | 11788 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.1770 | 1.0880 |
| Israel Shk | 7.00 | 6.34 |
| Italy Lira | 2934 | 2697 |
| Japan Yen | 194.82 | 177.09 |
| Malta | 0.661 | 0.602 |
| Netherlds Gld | 3.332 | 3.037 |
| New Zealand $ | 3.14 | 2.90 |
| Norway Kr | 12.79 | 11.85 |
| Portugal Esc | 298.31 | 276.28 |
| S Africa Rd | 10.42 | 9.46 |
| Spain Pta | 248.57 | 229.78 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.69 | 12.59 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.450 | 2.232 |
| Turkey Lira | 542283 | 50623[illegible] |
| USA $ | 1.747 | 1.604 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Swiss kick off £20m CPG bid

BY CHRIS AYRES

THE Swiss company that controls the marketing rights to football's World Cup yesterday launched a £20 million takeover bid for Britain's Copyright Promotions Group (CPG), which represents the rights to film and television creations such as *Star Wars* and *The Simpsons*.

ISMM's 130p-a-share cash bid — which has been recommended by CPG's board — values CPG at a 21 per cent premium to its closing share price on Friday. Shares in the company rose 20p yesterday to 127½p.

If the deal goes ahead, it will create one of the largest sports and entertainment licensing companies in the world. ISMM specialises in exploiting the rights to sporting competitions, while CPG's speciality is film and television. The board of CPG are expected to stay with the merged company.

As well as controlling the rights to the World Cup until 2006, ISMM represents the rights to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

David Cardwell, CPG's chief executive, said: "We are delighted at the prospect of joining forces with ISMM. In pooling our extensive resources, we believe that CPG and ISMM in tandem will represent a leading independent sports licensing operation, with expertise and a significant presence in key world markets."

CPG yesterday reported a sevenfold rise in pre-tax profits to £427,000 for the six months to October 31, and an 18 per cent rise in sales to £10.7 million. Earnings per share rose threefold to 1.81p. No dividend will be paid.

# A happy Rupert goes into BAT



## COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Johann Rupert happily lit up a cigarette to celebrate the announcement of his deal with BAT yesterday. Whatever the weed may be doing to his health, it has been the makings of the Rupert family fortunes and he clearly believes it can continue to be so. Far from stubbing out their interest in the tobacco business, the Ruperts will be holding on to a 35 per cent interest in the enlarged company.

The stock market shares their assessment of the opportunities for the combined businesses, sending BAT shares skywards as the deal was announced. Its emergence as a neat *fait accompli* was in sharp, and impressive, contrast to the leaked news that Enterprise Oil and Lasmo are trying to effect a liaison, an admission which will presage a period of increased uncertainty for both companies. But the BAT deal has the benefit of being made from a position of relative strength.

Martin Broughton is not messing around trying to concoct an artificial merger for appearance sake. BAT is taking over Rothmans International, and rather than duck and dive to try to avoid the worst attacks of acquisition accounting, is taking them on the chin. The BAT board suspects that investors will be grown up enough to shrug off the apparent horror of having to amortise goodwill estimated at an astronomical £5 billion and instead will look at the earnings benefits to come from the deal. So confident was the company that this deal was the right one to do that it did not bother with the increasingly common pre-marketing round of major shareholders, aimed at softening them up for the excitement to come.

Investors have reason to trust Mr Broughton's judgment. Rarely has a demerger increased shareholder value as rapidly as the splitting of BAT into its two component parts. Tobacco might be rather less fashionable than financial services but Mr Broughton was bravely determined to blow the smoke away and have a business clearly focused on Sir Walter Raleigh's legacy. He knows that while the West may be cutting back on cigarettes, the world is a big place. Even in these difficult economic times, cigarettes are winning new addicts in the far-flung spots that BAT supplies. With the Rothmans brands, BAT will be able to hold on to these customers as they trade up and puff on higher-margin products.

Mr Rupert might not have been so keen to hitch his fortunes to BAT this time last year but the major settlement in the drawn-out US litigation has altered the picture drastically. A charge of about $750 million is nasty but containable.

There will be regulatory hurdles ahead but they are not insurmountable: the over-powering presence of Phillip Morris provides a useful counter to most accusations of BAT having too great a market share. Deputy chairman, Kenneth Clarke, should be confident enough to enjoy a celebratory puff on a cigar.

### Corzine takes the rap at Goldman

Seeing the prospect of huge windfall gains being snatched away from under their noses tends not to bring out the best in people, even millionaire investment bankers. So it was that some of the heavily remunerated partners of Goldman Sachs were not in the best of humours last autumn when the planned flotation of the firm was aborted. There were suggestions that unkind things were being said behind the back of chief executive Jon Corzine about his unseemly handling of the affair.

The demeanour of those who had seen their paper wealth soar as high as $50 million but then sink back into a potential never land was hardly improved when the market shudder which had scared Goldman into dropping the float was rapidly reversed. Where might Goldman's share rating be now had it only been brave enough to push ahead with its plans?

Goldman's own investment guru, Abby Cohen, had been unflinchingly bullish about the market. She has now been rewarded with a partnership but, had the firm had more faith in her forecasting, her fellow partners might be enjoying the benefits now, with Wall Street teetering at record levels.

The apparent bungling of its own flotation is damaging for any business but particularly so for an investment bank. Never mind what the clients think, the jibes from competitors do get you down.

And if there was ever any doubt that Mr Corzine was being blamed, then yesterday's news should have dispelled it. For he is now giving up his chief executive role to concentrate "on issues pertaining to creating a successful public offering".

Few would envy him the task, although the rewards of success would clearly be great. But even if he succeeds in bringing Goldman to market before Wall Street comes to its senses, he cannot restore all the glamour which, rightly or wrongly, rubbed off the firm last autumn. The early valuations of around $30 billion may have been unsustainable but now the figure is seen as closer to $20 billion and that boils down to a significant loss for every Goldman partner.

With Mr Corzine consigned to purgatory, John Thornton is the man in the ascendant. He had never favoured flotation, which would inevitably change the unique nature of the bank. For that judgment, his partners are clearly prepared to forgive him the little matter of his chairmanship of Laura Ashley.

### Lips sealed with DTI fudge

So much for government accountability.

The Post Office bought a German business yesterday using taxpayers' money. We don't know how much because neither the organisation nor the Department of Trade and Industry will say. But they gleefully boast that they will be doing this again as the Post Office embarks on an international spending spree.

The secrecy with which public money is being spent is the first demonstration of the fudge that is government policy on the Post Office's future. Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, doomed the Post Office to muddle last month when he said it should have greater commercial freedom but be kept in public ownership. We have no idea of the spending limits that the Post Office will be bound by, despite it having executed its first deal.

Government money for commercial enterprise is not new: the DTI gives launch aid for developments — such as Rolls-Royce's new engine family — at competitive rates and in long-term arrangements which would not be available from a bank. But the secrecy is new — launch aid is put in the public domain, as it should be.

The veil over the Post Office's international aspirations is compounded by the fact that we are not even to know how much the whole deal costs, let alone the taxpayers' contribution.

And this from a Government that has pledged transparent regulation of the Post Office.

### Uncomfortable Reid

SIR Bob Reid and his team at Sears are struggling to conclude details of the sale of the group's credit card business so that there will be some good news to alleviate the bad in tomorrow's trading statement. The real gloom is likely to be in the figures from Freemans, the catalogue retailing business which Sir Bob was prevented from off-loading to Littlewoods. The energetic Philip Green is still waiting in the wings to pounce on Sears and Sir Bob will need some imaginative ammunition to keep him at bay.

# Forecasts are sliced as Tomkins edges ahead

By Paul Durman

ALAN WELLER

Slow progress: Greg Hutchings could see Tomkins full-year profits stand still or even decline

TOMKINS, the conglomerate with products ranging from car transmission belts to Hovis bread, has encountered "progressively more challenging" trading, prompting analysts to slice into their forecasts.

The shares, which have fallen from 340p last summer, slipped another 13p to 228½p. Andrew Hollins, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, has reduced his full-year profit forecast from £520 million to £490 million. "This could be the first year that won't increase profits," he said. "There are not many bits of the business that are going to be better second half than first."

First-half pre-tax profits came in at £220.1 million, a rise of only 2.4 per cent. However, even this improvement is after setting aside the £40 million provision for the loss that Tomkins will make on four Spillers flour mills that the Department of Trade and Industry has forced it to sell.

The group's industrial and automotive engineering division, centred on Gates, has seen sales to agricultural, heavy construction and other industrial customers "fall away".

Operating profits, which rose 8.8 per cent to £77.8 million, were also held back by losses in automotive hose manufacturing in Europe and by depressed demand in Asia.

The food division improved profits by 14.6 per cent to £71.4 million, helped by strong growth in sales to McDonald's and by the recent "excellent" acquisitions of Le Pain Croustillant and Martine Spécialités, which make frozen part-baked bread. But analysts worry that the division will struggle to maintain profit margins at 7.4 per cent if consumers "trade down" to cheaper bread because of recession.

Construction components increased profits 5 per cent to £64.9 million on reduced turnover. US sales are growing, but the UK and South African businesses face tough conditions.

Smith & Wesson, the handgun firm that earned Tomkins its "buns to guns" tag, looks increasingly likely to be sold after suffering a "significant decline" in sales and profitability. Tomkins is reviewing the future of its professional, garden and leisure products division, which represents only 3 per cent of group sales. Greg Hutchings, chairman, said the company will announce its decision in July.

Mr Hutchings said Tomkins regularly reviews the possibility of moving to the US to try to improve the rating of its out-of-favour shares, but such a move was "not yet" suitable.

Tomkins has £500 million or so for add-on acquisitions. The interim dividend rises 14.3 per cent to 4p a share.

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# SEC fines Wall Street firms $26m

By A Correspondent

THE Securities & Exchange Commission fined 28 Wall Street firms more than $26 million (almost £16 million) and suspended 51 traders, bringing an end to a five-year-old legal battle.

The deal with the brokerage houses closes the Government's charges that the firms duped customers by, among other things, failing to provide the best prices for stocks traded on the Nasdaq market and failing to honour our posted stock quotes.

The SEC found that the firms, through their market-makers, intentionally delayed trade reports and failed to honour quoted prices.

Hardest hit by the SEC was PaineWebber, the retail brokerage. It was ordered to pay $6.7 million in civil penalties and any illegal profits.

# Pace moves into the black after year of turmoil

By Chris Ayres

PACE Micro Technology, the manufacturer of set-top boxes for digital television broadcasters, yesterday said it had moved back into the black during the six months to November 28 after more than a year of turmoil.

The company, which yesterday admitted that its future prospects were almost entirely dependent on the successful launch of digital television services throughout the world, reported profits of £8.3 million, compared with losses of £12.3 million.

Sales rose to nearly £100 million, up from £87 million, and earnings per share climbed to 2.6p, compared with losses of 5.8p.

However, Pace added that sales had been hit by economic turmoil in South America and the Far East, and that it could be "difficult to sustain" its improved 26 per cent margins. Shares in the company fell 2p to 91.5p, compared with a low of 25.5p last year and a high of 241.5p after its flotation in 1996.

Pace manufactures set-top boxes for Britain's first two digital television services, Sky-Digital (run by BSkyB) and ONdigital (run by Carlton and Granada). BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

The company also provides the technology for integrated digital television sets and plans to build high-speed cable modems into some of its future products.

Pace said that an interim dividend of 0.25p would be paid on April 9.

# ICG helps Regal to buy rival

By Dominic Walsh

REGAL Hotel Group has joined forces with Intermediate Capital Group (ICG), the mezzanine finance specialist, to acquire County Hotels in a deal valuing its rival at £115.5 million.

A new 50-50 joint venture company set up by Regal and ICG is paying £42.5 million in cash for the 25-strong chain and assuming £73 million of debt.

Regal is to lend £30 million to the joint venture and will manage County's properties in return for 20 per cent of operating profits.

The three-star chain is being sold by Duke Street Capital, the venture capitalist that led its £91 million buy-out from Queens Moat Houses in 1997. Regal already operates five hotels in a joint venture with ICG.

# Warning as RCO advances

RCO Holdings, the support services group, yesterday called 1998 a "watershed year" but gave warning that employment legislation and economic downturn would "create a degree of uncertainty in the rate of growth and margin improvement".

The company has now established itself in the NHS Private Finance Initiative market with the signing of the Calderdale contract to develop Halifax General Hospital.

The group showed a pre-tax profit of £1.8 million for the year to October 2, against a profit of £1.2 million for the 53-week period in 1997, on a turnover of £57.6 million (£55.6 million). Earnings were 11.64p a share (7.73p) and a final dividend of 6p brings the year's total to 10p (16p).

### Logica bank deal

Logica, the computer consultancy, will today announce a £4 million contract with Barclays Bank to provide systems support for its PC online banking services. Logica will provide services including production, test and development as well as operation of the live system and help-desk services. It has also secured a £2.9 million contract to Radio-Mobil, a Czech mobile phone company.

### BAA shares dip

Shares of BAA fell 4p to 714p yesterday even though the privatised airport operator confirmed it is considering demerging its Lynton property subsidiary. If the proposal is approved, BAA will list it on the stock market as a company worth more than £500 million.

# Fyffes unveils £400m acquisition war chest

By Fraser Nelson

FYFFES has revealed it has a £400 million war chest that it intends to use purchasing smaller rivals across Europe and to complete a large acquisition by the end of the year.

The fruit and vegetable importer, which distributes one in every five bananas sold in the UK, said it intends to command similar market shares in potatoes and other fruit.

Carl McCann, deputy chairman, whose brother, David, is chief executive, said the company had no debt and £43 million sitting in the bank.

He said: "Deal, deal, deal — that's the idea. We'd like to do more deals and the bigger the better. The cash is there and with interest rates going down, the return is no good unless you can turn it into deals."

Last month, Fyffes agreed to acquire a 50 per cent stake in rival Capespan International for £51 million and a 10 per cent stake in its parent company which markets the Cape and Outspan labels.

Based in the Republic of Ireland, Fyffes returned its results in euros — becoming the first London-listed company to do so. Its pre-tax profits rose by an expected 15 per cent to €78.9 million (£55.7 million) for the year to October 31. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 16.2 cents per share.

It is again taking advantage of Irish tax breaks on dividends to lift the payout 25 per cent to 2.71 cents per share, making a total of 3.58 cents, up from 2.90 cents.



David McCann, left with Frank Gernon, finance director

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# Mild weather prompts warning from Kwik-Fit

By Fraser Nelson

KWIK-FIT has issued its first profits warning for six years, blaming a mild winter for allowing motorists to survive December without needing new tyres or car batteries.

The company, Britain's largest service station network with 850 outlets, said its winter "seasonal uplift" had not appeared — "perhaps due to weather".

The shares lost 14 per cent of their value yesterday, as brokers prepared for the downturn to continue into January and February.

Graeme Bissett, who became finance director three months ago, said that much of the lost business should be recaptured later in the year.

He said: "Bad weather normally focuses people's minds to replace tyres and batteries sooner rather than later. But we are not a discretionary purchase, so we have some degree of resilience."

The ten months before December had been strong, he said, with an overall increase in the number of cars serviced. However, the three winter months are usually the most lucrative.

Analysts who were expecting a pre-tax profit of £62 million for the year to February 28 are now forecasting £57 million.

The shares closed 73½p down at 462p — their sharpest one-day fall since Kwik-Fit's last profits warning in 1992.




# City sets its sights on the next takeover targets

SPOTTING the next takeover target ripe for plucking has become the latest game in the Square Mile — and there are no shortage of likely candidates among second-liners.

Take **Thistle Hotels**. Last year the group received a bid approach when the shares were trading about the 200p level. The market anticipated an offer worth 250p a share, but the talks broke down. The price closed last night unchanged at 117½p. The company remains vulnerable.

**First Leisure** also stood out with a jump of 30½p to 232p amid vague talk of a bid from **Luminar**. However, the rise in the Luminar share price, 22½p to 680p, suggests that the market believes any such bid will come from other sources, possibly a venture capitalist, or even **Bass**, up 11½p to 879½p.

**Sears**, the troubled high street retailer, surged 34p to 289p in the belief that Philip Green had finally raised the finance to launch an offer worth 300p a share. Others claim Sears may tempt shareholders to remain loyal by offering a payout of 130p a share.

**Cordiant**, the advertising agency demerged from Saatchi & Saatchi last year, surged 23½p to a high of 146p amid suggestions that a bid may be on the way from US rival True North Communications.

Grey Communications, the US advertising group, is said to be preparing to bid for **Saatchi & Saatchi**, up 8p to 130½p. Grey has long been interested in buying another advertising network and was an underbidder when GGT Group bought BDDP 18 months ago.

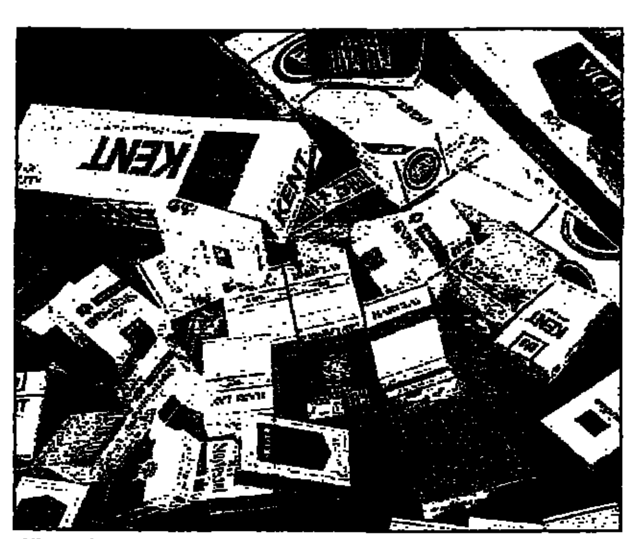
**Charter** has slumped from nearly 800p in the past year. It rallied 13p to 350p yesterday with traders talking of a bid approach soon.

Shares of **Rexam**, the former Bowater paper company, has seen its shares slump from 320p reflecting the downturn in the paper industry worldwide. It makes the company vulnerable to takeover. The price rose 6p to 188p on turnover of 3 million shares.

An early mark-up on the back of the latest flurry of corporate activity soon gave way to profit taking. Share prices in both London and New York were on the slide as investors chose to consolidate profits.

The FTSE 100 index came within a whisker of its record high of 6,195.6, achieved last week, before moving into reverse. Down 84 points, at one stage, it closed 62.2 down at 6,085.0. Total turnover was 898 million shares.

The proposed £13 billion merger between **British American Tobacco**, up 84p to 625p, and Rothmans, led to hopes that bidders may emerge for **Imperial Tobacco**, up 7p to 640p. The enlarged tobacco producer would be number three in the world after Philip Morris and that could spell trouble for both Imps and **Gallaher**, down 3p to 405½p.



The union of Rothmans and British American Tobacco, up 84p to 625p, would create the world's third-largest tobacco maker

A wave of speculative buying chased **Sinclair Healthcare** 23p to 136½p before the company announced it had received a number of approaches that could lead to a bid. BUPA has been leading the way forward in a consolidation of the healthcare market.

**Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries** retreated 20p to 490p after rejecting the Pac-Man bid from **Marston, Thompson & Evershed**, off 5p at 297½p. Wolves's own bid of £262 million for Marston's remains on the table.

**Arcadia** continued to bounce along the bottom with a fall of 8p to 147½p in the wake of a profits warning before Christmas. Now there are fears that trading continued to decline over the festive period.

**On-Line** saw its shares virtually double from 16½p to 29½p, but the directors cannot say why. They know of no reason for such a rise. But that did not stop David Crump, a director, buying 2,500 shares at 25p.

It was the first day of trading over on Ofex for **Easyscreen**, which provides dealing systems for the futures and option markets. The price opened at 166p after a placing of six million shares before closing at 210p, its best of the day, a premium of 43p.

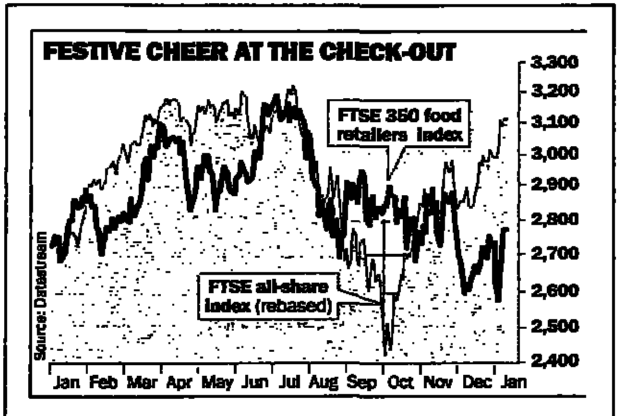
Keep an eye on **Cortecs**, up 5p to 18½p, which saw its shares slump from 195½p after a boardroom bust up last year. Word is Nomura, the Japanese securities house, last week picked up a line of three million shares, or 2 per cent, overhanging the market. It may be looking to build up a 10 per cent stake in the company.

Support in a narrow market also boosted **Airtech** 6½p to 29½p. Trading is said to have picked up after a poor first half and word is the company, which supplies components to the mobile phone industry, may soon be tempted to release an upbeat statement.

□ **GILT EDGED:** Bond prices suffered a sell-off during afternoon trading as they followed the US market lower. The biggest falls were seen among longer-dated issues where losses stretched to almost £1.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 40p to £119.24 as 22,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 88p to £150.61, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 2p off at £107.91.

□ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips sagged amid worries about the dollar. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 69.25 points to 9,574.07.




A FEW crumbs of comfort were offered to investors by the food retailers.

William Morrison Supermarkets, up 10½p at 307½p, has reported that sales in the five weeks to January 3, were up 14.5 per cent on the previous year.

Excluding five new stores and five acquisitions, sales during the Christmas period were up 5.3 per cent with like-for-like sales in the 48 weeks to date up 3 per cent.

This sales rundown will provide some cheer for brokers who have been fretting about a sales slowdown over Christmas and the New Year.

The news from Morrison also coincided with an upbeat report on the sector from Crédit Lyonnais, the broker, which has moved to "overweight".

It has raised Safeways, 1½p up at 283½p, and Alldays, steady at 184½p, from "add" to "buy".

Asda, down 3½p at 160p, is moved from "reduce" to "add" along with William Morrison and Somerfield, 8p cheaper at 450½p.

| | |
|---|---|
| **New York (midday):** | |
| Dow Jones | 9574.07 (-69.25) |
| S&P Composite | 1261.40 (-13.69) |
| **Tokyo:** | |
| Nikkei Average | 13368.46 (-23.33) |
| **Hong Kong:** | |
| Hang Seng | 10634.27 (-88.43) |
| **Amsterdam:** | |
| AEX Index | 545.77 (-13.50) |
| **Sydney:** | |
| AO | 2849.4 (-6.9) |
| **Frankfurt:** | |
| DAX | 5270.80 (-122.24) |
| **Singapore:** | |
| Straits | 1543.08 (-2.10) |
| **Brussels:** | |
| BEL20 | 3540.30 (-33.86) |
| **Paris:** | |
| CAC-40 | 4201.90 (-43.52) |
| **Zurich:** | |
| SKA Gen | 1504.40 (-35.80) |
| **London:** | |
| FT 30 | 3641.2 (-21.9) |
| FTSE 100 | 6085.0 (-62.2) |
| FTSE 250 | 4982.0 (+5.6) |
| FTSE 350 | 2864.3 (-24.4) |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 2862.92 (-46.10) |
| FTSE All-Share | 2762.73 (-21.95) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 2818.31 (-17.19) |
| FTSE Fixed Interest | 157.42 (-0.12) |
| FTSE Govt Secs | 115.98 (-0.50) |
| Bargains | 78423 |
| SEAQ Volume | 898.8m |
| US$ | 1.6400 (-0.0001) |
| Euro | 0.7034 (-0.0006) |
| Exchange Index | 99.0 (-0.2) |
| Bank of England official close (4pm) | |
| £:SDR | 1.1715 |
| RPI | 164.4 Nov (3.0%) Jan 1987 = 100 |
| RPIX | 162.0 Nov (2.5%) Jan 1987 = 100 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AIM VCT | 100 | | ... |
| Abbey Natl Dublin Inv | 92½ | + | 1 |
| BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap | 99 | + | 1½ |
| BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc | 121½ | | ... |
| Charriol | 117½ | | ... |
| Collective Assets Trust | 117 | | ... |
| Financial Objects | 277 | + | 4½ |
| First Active | 348½ | − | 1 |
| Five Arrows Uts Cv Ln 2040 | 128 | − | ½ |
| Marley B | 11 | | ... |
| Natl Bldg Mtls Cv Pf | 105 | | ... |
| Natural Building Mtls | 5 | | ... |
| Piccadilly Growth Ts | 97 | | ... |
| REXAM B (100) | 96 | | ... |
| Singer & Frd AIM VCT | 100 | | ... |
| Willington | 77½ | | ... |
| Xenova Warrants | 15 | − | 1½ |
| Yeoman II Equity Units | 96½ | + | ½ |
| Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap | 6 | − | ½ |
| Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc | 90½ | + | ½ |
| Yeoman II Zero Div Pf | 112¼ | + | 2¼ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| EMAP n/p (875) | 215 | + | 5 |
| Recognition Systems n/p (9) | 5½ | | ... |
| SKD Media n/p (15) | 1¼ | | ... |

**RISES:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eng China Cl | 242½ | + 82½ | + 51.5 |
| Dowding Mills | 55 | + 10 | + 22.2 |
| Sinclair Mont | 136½ | + 23 | + 20.2 |
| Cordiant Comms | 146 | + 23½ | + 19.1 |
| Copyright Proms | 127½ | + 20 | + 18.6 |
| Planit | 36 | + 5½ | + 18.0 |
| Hozelock | 343½ | + 51 | + 17.4 |

**FALLS:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kwik-Fit | 462 | − 73½ | − 13.7 |
| Capital Corpn | 59½ | − 7 | − 10.5 |
| Chieftain Gp | 56½ | − 6 | − 9.6 |
| Radamec | 34½ | − 3½ | − 9.2 |
| Bilston Bttrsea | 35 | − 3½ | − 9.0 |
| JBA Hldgs | 205 | − 17½ | − 7.8 |
| Courtaulds Text | 160 | − 13 | − 7.5 |
| Wyko | 86 | − 6½ | − 7.0 |
| Total Systems | 47 | − 3½ | − 6.9 |
| Cohen (A) | 135 | − 10 | − 6.8 |
| Nthn Foods | 117 | − 8½ | − 6.7 |
| Majestic Wine | 280 | − 17½ | − 5.8 |
| Wace | 59 | − 3½ | − 5.6 |
| Tomkins | 228½ | − 13 | − 5.3 |
| Paterson Zch | 342½ | − 19 | − 5.2 |
| Arcadia Group | 147½ | − 8 | − 5.1 |

# Take a look at the Mirror

WITH confusing leaks and spin-doctoring that would not disgrace new Labour, it would be easy for investors to throw up their hands in horror and wonder whether the question marks hanging over the future of Mirror Group will ever be resolved.

Beneath the claim and counter-claim lies a bare truth that Trinity and Mirror Group need each other. Both need to be larger and benefit from economies of scale in a media world increasingly dominated by large, international players. The strategic fit cannot be faulted and the two could create a group of national and regional newspapers, magazines and exhibitions that could at least aspire one day to look a bit like Associated Newspapers.

David Montgomery, the Mirror chief executive, has never received full credit for the way he modernised the business and extended its reach beyond national newspapers. But the sentiment running against Mr Montogmery is such that he is unlikely ever to get the recognition he deserves, and until he moves on, Mirror shares are likely to meander.

Moreover, Mirror shareholders (including Phillips & Drew with 22 per cent) want the deal to be done. They have had enough of the share price underperformance and are eager to see value unlocked. It is difficult to see Mirror shares reaching the 248p scaled after Axel Springer expressed acquisition interest last year. But there is a good chance of growth from 166p yesterday.

It is time for the posturing to stop and for Trinity and Mirror to complete this deal. The logic demands that it is done. Such is the momentum, in fact, that there shares could be bought for a quick turn.

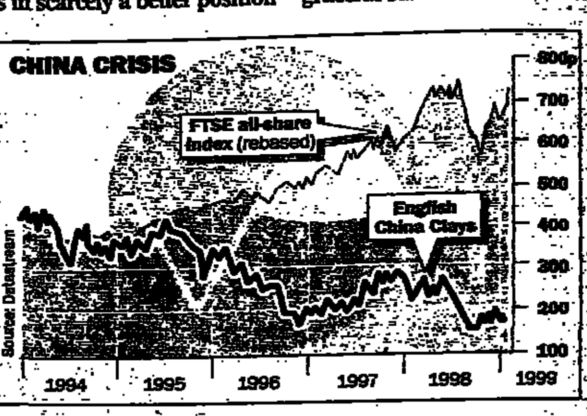
## ECC

ANDREW TEARE is yet to be replaced at Rank, the entertainment group from which he was unceremoniously ejected last November. But if Rank's fate is anything like that endured by English China Clays since Mr Teare left in 1995, shareholders should be pitied.

Now predominantly a supplier of whitener to the paper industry, ECC is caught in a horrible pincer. First, there is plentiful supply of both kaolin, the natural raw material; and its synthetic substitute. Secondly, the main customers for the product — paper makers — are flat on their backs.

In the past five years earnings have gone nowhere. The management at ECC says it has not been given a chance to prove itself capable of building higher-margin speciality materials and chemicals businesses. The idea is to use the cash-generating abilities of the low-margin commodity side to develop the more exciting opportunities. ECC also reckons the £680 million Imetal bid, announced yesterday, undervalues ECC's reserves of superior quality kaolin.

ECC shareholders will be forgiven for losing patience. Imetal, its French competitor, is in scarcely a better position but it is offering cash, which means ECC shareholders can exit this sad industry altogether. ECC management, which looks to have had its nose put out of joint with Imetal going public before it had chewed over a preliminary approach, may yet recommend the bid. There could be more to squeeze from Imetal, but a graceful surrender is best.




## Lasmo

LADEN with debt, Lasmo is in greater need of a merger partner than Enterprise Oil, its former foe. But the chances of a deal were looking slim yesterday. More probable is the intervention of a third party. A medium-sized integrated European or American oil company could top up its reserves at a cost of \$3-\$4 per barrel by buying Lasmo and taking on its debt. That compares with an average finding cost for US companies of \$5 per barrel via the drill bit.

Both managements recognise the risk. Doubtless this is the reason why they have now found beauty in one another. Nevertheless, while the arguments for doing something are more pressing than ever, a Lasmo/Enterprise merger may not provide the answer. It will take more than a quick bit of cost cutting to cure the ills.

There is a a quick £20 million to be gained selling the company Jag, and sacking a geologist or two, but this does not provide shareholders with a long-term solution. They want a more stable business, more resilient to oil price volatility and that means joining a different league. Both Enterprise and Lasmo need to be part of a larger company with a better spread of assets. They also need management that can see beyond the current oil price.

Both Lasmo and Enterprise shares should continue to benefit from takeover speculation.

## Tomkins

TOMKINS has done the trendy things. It has embraced share buybacks and got itself focus. But its shares remain unloved and are now only 25p above the 203p low they hit in 1994.

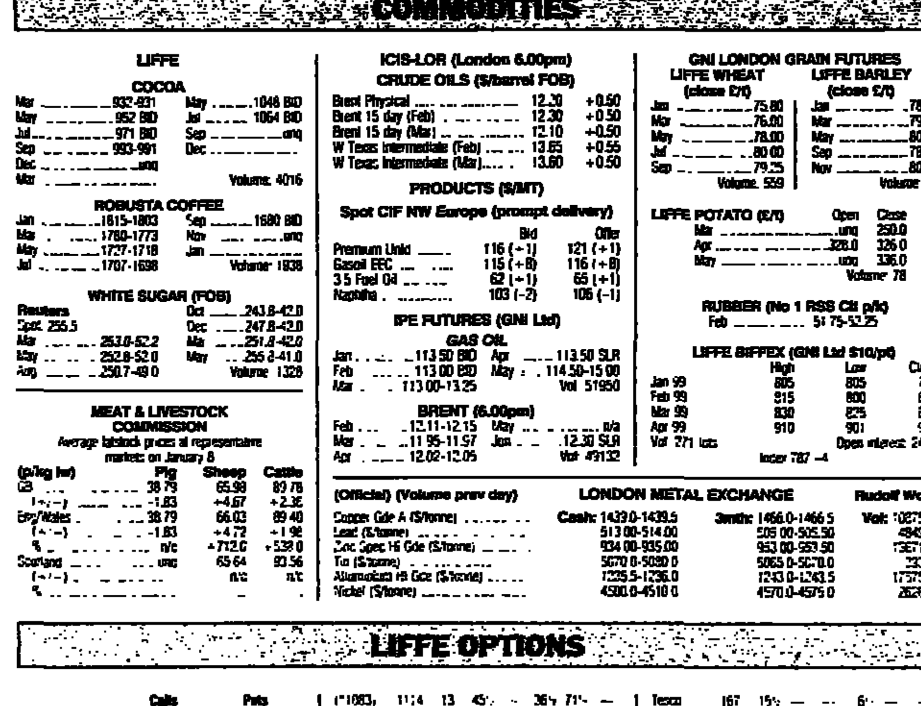
This is a poor reward for years of consistent growth. Yet a change in sentiment looks unlikely when cracks are starting to appear. Pre-tax profit growth has slowed to just 2.4 per cent. Tomkins has shared in the strength of the US economy, which provides half of group sales. But its industrial and automotive engineering division is being hit. Construction components, a division dependent on the US housing market, is OK so far, but the scope for further reductions in profit forecasts is clear.

Food manufacturing is in good shape but, again, margins could prove vulnerable if the UK moves into recession. And then there is the embarrassment of having to make a £40 million provision against the enforced sale of flour mills bought for £97 million only last March.

Still, the falling price of manufacturing acquisitions should bring the best out of Tomkins's management. The shares trade on less than 10 times earnings — attractive for patient investors.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

## COMMODITIES



LIFFE COCOA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar | 932-931 | May | 1048 BID |
| May | 952 BID | Jul | 1064 BID |
| Jul | 971 BID | Sep | unq |
| Sep | 993-991 | Dec | |
| Dec | unq | | |

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent Physical | 12.30 | +0.50 |
| Brent 15 day (Feb) | 12.30 | +0.50 |
| Brent 15 day (Mar) | 12.10 | +0.50 |
| W Texas Intermediate (Feb) | 13.65 | +0.55 |
| W Texas Intermediate (Mar) | 13.60 | +0.50 |

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

| LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t) | | LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan | 75.80 | Jan | 78.25 |
| Mar | 76.00 | Mar | 79.50 |
| May | 78.00 | May | 80.50 |
| Jul | 80.00 | Sep | 78.50 |
| Sep | 79.25 | Nov | 80.50 |

## LIFFE OPTIONS

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

| | Period | Open | High | Low | Sett | Vol |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Long Gilt** | Mar 99 | 119.70 | 119.70 | 119.08 | 119.24 | 27310 |
| Previous open interest 107924 | Jun 99 | | | | 120.34 | 0 |
| **German Govt Bond (Bund)** | Mar 99 | | | | 116.21 | 0 |
| Previous 0 | | | | | | |
| **Five Year Gilt** | Mar 99 | 109.20 | 109.20 | 109.28 | 108.91 | 13 |
| Previous open interest 76 | Jun 99 | | | | 108.91 | 0 |
| **Italian Govt Bond (BTP)** | Mar 99 | 114.65 | 114.80 | 113.85 | 114.07 | 21561 |
| Previous 34790 | | | | | | |
| **Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)** | Mar 99 | 130.48 | 130.69 | 130.35 | 130.56 | 1298 |
| | Jun 99 | | | | 129.66 | 0 |
| **Three Mth Sterling** | Mar 99 | 94.490 | 94.520 | 94.480 | 94.500 | 16760 |
| | Jun 99 | 94.930 | 94.950 | 94.920 | 94.938 | 15668 |
| Previous open interest 1061389 | Sep 99 | 95.080 | 95.100 | 95.070 | 95.070 | 13044 |
| **Three Mth Euromark** | Mar 99 | 96.900 | 96.920 | 96.890 | 96.900 | 48657 |
| Previous open interest 2060302 | Jun 99 | 97.050 | 97.090 | 97.040 | 97.055 | 55646 |
| **Three Mth Eurolira** | Mar 99 | 96.910 | 96.920 | 96.890 | 96.900 | 804 |
| Previous open interest 493019 | Jun 99 | 97.090 | 97.090 | 97.058 | 97.055 | 358 |
| **Three Mth Euroswiss** | Mar 99 | 98.530 | 98.530 | 98.490 | 98.500 | 6595 |
| Previous open interest 145551 | Jun 99 | 98.410 | 98.410 | 98.390 | 98.400 | 3129 |
| **Three Mth Euro** | Mar 99 | 96.900 | 96.900 | 96.900 | 96.900 | 150 |
| Previous open interest 13639 | Jun 99 | 97.055 | 97.055 | 97.055 | 97.055 | 230 |
| **FTSE 100** | Mar 99 | 6305.0 | 6244.0 | 6086.0 | 6123.0 | 27025 |
| Previous open interest 134444 | Jun 99 | 6158.0 | 6158.0 | 6158.0 | 6166.0 | 1000 |

## MONEY RATES (%)

**Base Rates:** Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 7
**Discount Market Loans:** O/night high 7 Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]
**Treasury Bills (Dis):** Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible], 3 mth 5[illegible]; Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible], 3 mth 5[illegible]

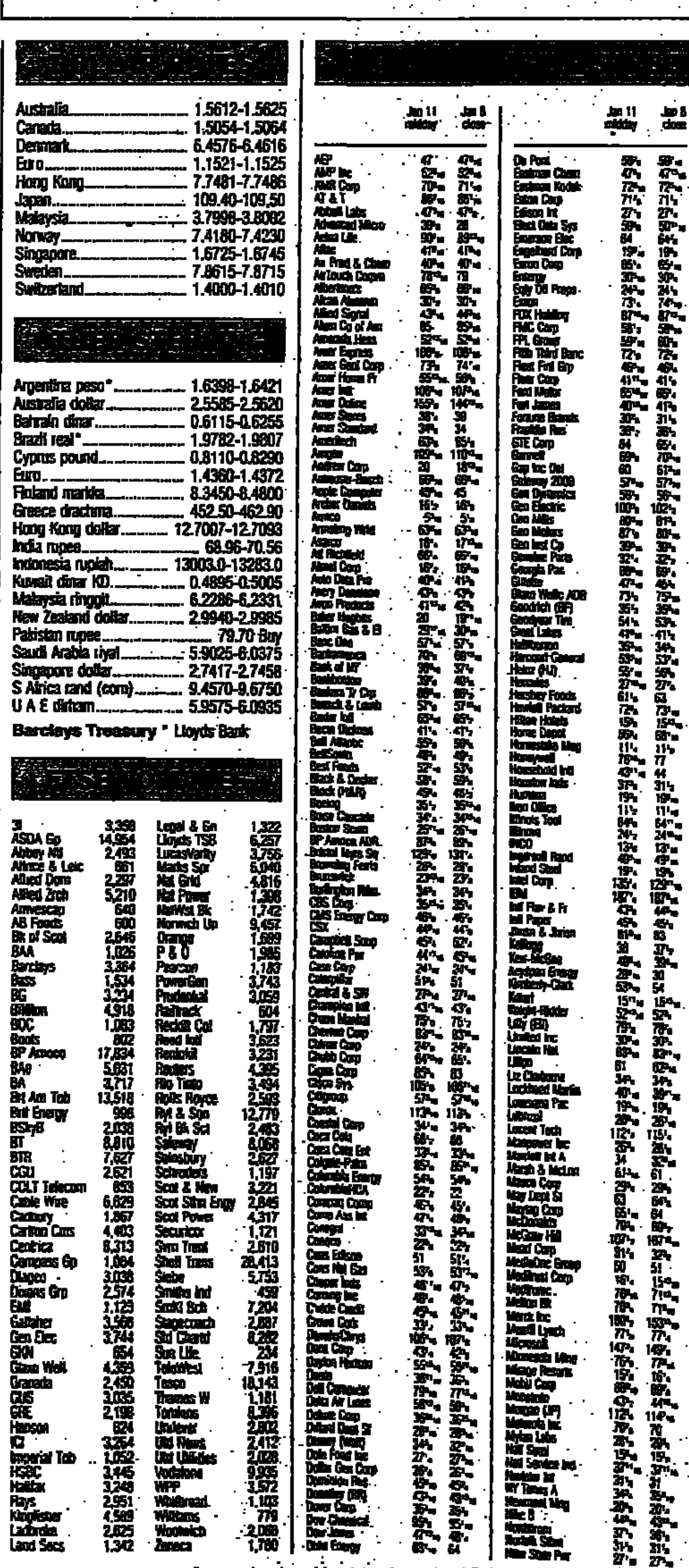
| | 1 mth | 2 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Prime Bank Bills (Dis):** | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| **Sterling Money Rates:** | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| **Interbank:** | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 7 | | | | | |
| **Local Authority Deps:** | 6 | n/a | 5[illegible] | 5[illegible] | 5[illegible] |
| **Sterling CDs:** | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| **Dollar CDs:** | 4.92 | n/a | 4.93 | 4.97 | n/a |
| **Building Society CDs:** | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

| Currency | 7 day | 1 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | Call |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dollar: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

## GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS

## STERLING RATES

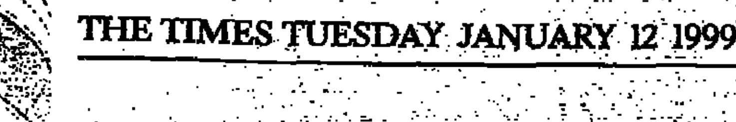


| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 1.5612-1.5625 |
| Canada | 1.5054-1.5064 |
| Denmark | 6.4576-6.4616 |
| Euro | 1.1521-1.1525 |
| Hong Kong | 7.7481-7.7486 |
| Japan | 109.40-109.50 |
| Malaysia | 3.7998-3.8082 |
| Norway | 7.4180-7.4230 |
| Singapore | 1.6725-1.6745 |
| Sweden | 7.8615-7.8715 |
| Switzerland | 1.4000-1.4010 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina peso* | 1.6398-1.6421 |
| Australia dollar | 2.5585-2.5620 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.6115-0.6255 |
| Brazil real* | 1.9782-1.9807 |
| Cyprus pound | 0.8110-0.8290 |
| Euro | 1.4360-1.4372 |
| Finland markka | 8.3450-8.4800 |
| Greece drachma | 452.50-462.90 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 12.7007-12.7093 |
| India rupee | 68.96-70.56 |
| Indonesia rupiah | 13003.0-13283.0 |
| Kuwait dinar KD | 0.4895-0.5005 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 6.2286-6.2331 |
| New Zealand dollar | 2.9940-2.9985 |
| Pakistan rupee | 79.70 Buy |
| Saudi Arabia riyal | 5.9025-6.0375 |
| Singapore dollar | 2.7417-2.7458 |
| S Africa rand (com) | 9.4570-9.6750 |
| U A E dirham | 5.9575-6.0935 |

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3i | 3,368 | Legal & Gn | 1,322 |
| ASDA Gp | 14,954 | Lloyds TSB | 6,257 |
| Abbey Ntl | 2,493 | LucasVarity | 3,756 |
| Allnce & Leic | 861 | Marks Spr | 5,040 |
| Allied Dom | 2,297 | Nat Grid | 4,816 |
| Allied Zrch | 5,210 | Nat Power | 1,398 |
| Amvescap | 640 | NatWst Bk | 1,742 |
| AB Foods | 600 | Norwich Un | 9,457 |
| Bk of Scot | 2,646 | Orange | 1,689 |
| BAA | 1,026 | P & O | 1,985 |
| Barclays | 3,364 | Pearson | 1,183 |



هكذا من الأصل





# Future bright unless Europe is set on kamikaze mission

## The world is unlikely to return to a pre-Keynesian age of innocence

THE OUTLOOK FOR 1999

ECONOMIC EXPANSION WILL CONTINUE
Standardised Unemployment Rates (%)
EUROPEAN UNION
BRITAIN
US

INTEREST RATES WILL START RISING
Ten-year government bond yields
GERMANY
US

DOLLAR WILL RISE AGAINST THE EURO BUT NOT AGAINST THE YEN
Dollar per euro
Yen per dollar

WESTERN STOCK MARKETS WILL DECLINE BUT NOT CRASH
Equity prices relative to gross domestic product
US
BRITAIN

POUND WILL REMAIN STABLE TO SLIGHTLY STRONGER
Pounds per euro
Dollars per euro

ASIAN TIGERS WILL RECOVER BUT JAPAN WILL SINK
Stockmarket indices
KOREA COMPOSITE
NIKKEI-225

Source: DATASTREAM

After preparing the charts to accompany the annual game of crystal-ball gazing in which I indulged today, I glanced back to the way this page was laid out last year. I was suddenly struck by a horrible realisation. Of the six charts I have presented on the right, four are virtually identical to the ones that were published here exactly a year ago.

Last January I felt even more confident than I do today that the dollar would strengthen against the euro, that the pound would prove "surprisingly stable", that long-term interest rates would start rising and that "the bears would take charge" on Wall Street and the other main Western stock markets. Only one of these four predictions — the one about the pound — turned out to be anywhere near right. So how can I now repeat the same views?

Shouldn't I adjust my opinions, in the spirit of Keynes's celebrated rejoinder: "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do, Sir?" And what if this year's predictions do turn out to be right? Won't I be guilty of simply applying the "stopped clock" theory of forecasting: the principle that if you keep saying the same thing for long enough, a time will eventually come when you seem to be exactly right?

These are all potentially valid criticisms. I will therefore add a big qualification to all my predictions this year. The views presented below are even more than usually subject to revision because 1999 is a year that could move along two very different paths. It could be a year of strong economic recovery and falling unemployment for most parts of the world — and my hunch is that this is how things will turn out. Most of the conditions are now firmly in place for a healthy rebound, especially in countries where economic pessimism and consumer and business retrenchment at the end of last year reached irrational extremes.

A prime example of this syndrome was Britain. Subject to the qualifications explained below, I certainly expect the British economy to recover and unemployment to resume its fall around the middle of 1999. My hunch, in fact, is that the worst is already over and the UK economy will grow by 1.5 per cent or more. With interest rates falling and the City benefiting from the revival in financial confidence, figures for consumer spending could start to surprise on the upside from now on. Another unexpected boost for Britain will come from the City's growing dominance of the unified European financial markets. One of my side-bets for 1999, is that people will finally realise that London's position as the financial centre of Europe has nothing to do with whether the bankers and dealers buy their sandwiches with euros or pounds. (On the other hand, the rapidly improving gastronomic quality of the sandwiches available in the City has been a major plus.)

I also expect the US economy to remain much stronger than expected. The OECD has just predicted that US growth will fall from 3.5 per cent in 1998 to 1.5 per cent this year. This forecast could be beaten by as much as a full percentage point, just as it was last year. The upward momentum of US consumption, investment and income growth remains strong and I see no reason why this should be reversed even if the stock market falls quite sharply, which I think it eventually will.

Of course, every silver lining has a cloud behind it. If I am right about the unexpected strength of the world economy, then interest rates, particularly in Britain and America, will not fall as far as markets expect. My guess is that British base rates will bottom at 5.5 or 5.75 per cent, rather than the 5 per cent discounted in futures markets, or the even lower figures predicted by most City analysts. This means that the pound is more likely to rise a bit than to fall, at least against the euro. American rates are unlikely to fall any further at all.

Whether and when American rates will start rising is the great imponderable which will determine the fate of Wall Street and all other financial markets. I suspect that the Federal Reserve will move to a tightening bias, without actually raising rates, sometime in the spring. This could be the event that sets off another stock market correction. But will this finally turn out to be the long-expected bear market? I think it will.

Once the market decides that the US and world economies are growing more strongly than expected and that interest rates are rising, there will be a strong sense that this is a decisive turn in the economic cycle and not just a temporary blip. This should be reflected in a big upward shift in worldwide long-term interest rates. These are now at post-War lows. These rates can only be justified if we assume that inflation will remain not just low but non-existent — and not just for the next few years but forever. I think this is extremely improbable.

Having discovered that recessions can be prevented by demand management and that money can be printed at will, I think the world is unlikely ever to return to a pre-Keynesian age of innocence, when prices were as likely to fall as to rise. If bonds turn, then equity prices will certainly fall even more sharply. The bear market in equities will not be caused by fears of recession, as assumed last summer. Instead investors will decide that stratospheric valuation levels cannot be sustained in a world of higher interest rates. I do not, however, expect the setback in equities to be particularly catastrophic. I reject completely the view that Wall Street is in some kind of Japanese-style bubble. Latter-day examples of Tulip Mania certainly abound among the Internet stocks, most of which will end up literally worthless, but shares in established American, British and European companies should start to look attractively valued again after a 40 per cent fall, typical of past bear markets. And before the bear market begins, perhaps in the summer, leading equities could easily rise by another 10 per cent.

So far I have focused on Britain and America, but the prospects for continental Europe and Asian emerging markets are also potentially good. The Asian "tigers" are now clearly recovering. Given a fair wind from America and Europe this should continue. Europe, if it had the right policies, could grow rapidly for years, easily halving its present 11 per cent rate of unemployment. What are the "right" policies for Europe? Changes in employment practices, deregulation and tax reform are needed but by far the most important policies that could rapidly reduce unemployment are the ones that the politicians of euroland have handed over to the unaccountable and largely inexperienced bureaucrats who now run the European Central Bank: further urgent reductions in interest rates and, above all, a determined effort to push the euro gradually but significantly lower against the dollar and yen.

If the ECB adopted such pro-growth policies, the accelerating growth and falling unemployment in Europe would largely deal with the biggest structural problems hanging over the world economy — the huge imbalances of trade and savings between America, Japan and the EU.

The same could be even more true of Japan, but the Japanese Government has wasted another year with half-hearted implementation of economically illiterate policies. It is now probably too late, both economically and politically, to hope that anything can be done this year to reverse what Richard Medley, the consultant based in New York, has aptly called Japan's "death spiral". As the spiral continues, the yen will remain malignantly hard and the Nikkei will sink to new lows.

The greatest danger facing the world economy in 1999 is that European policymakers will now make the same mistake as the Japanese. Instead of acting immediately to guarantee continuing growth in euroland, the ECB may wait until it is too late. If this happens, then euroland could easily be caught in a Japanese-style spiral, with an overvalued currency investment and employment to collapse, which in turn causes bigger trade surpluses and pushes the currency even higher.

This brings me back to the caveat I mentioned at the start. If the euro continues to appreciate against the dollar in the first few months of its existence, the already grim industrial conditions in Europe — and especially in Germany — could deteriorate very fast. If this is allowed to happen, I will have to conclude that the ECB is set on a Japanese-style kamikaze mission. My entire optimistic scenario for the world economy will have to be torn up.

# PlayStation stands the test of time in a technological era



JASON NISSE

MARKET LEADER

The pace of the technological revolution means that products that are new and exciting today will be dull and old hat in a couple of years' time. As soon as I took delivery of a computer with a 486 chip, Intel brought out the Pentium processors and the Pentium II soon followed. I feel like I'm driving a Model T Ford.

So how come the Sony PlayStation is still selling so well? More than three years after it was launched, the PlayStation has just had its best Christmas, selling more than 500,000 consoles in the UK and more than five million worldwide.

This means that there are now more than 3.5 million PlayStations in the UK and 50 million around the world, representing sales of nearly £10 billion for Sony's first interactive entertainment product. When you add in the amount that has been spent on games for the consoles, it is easy to see sales of more than £20 billion on PlayStation.

What is perhaps even more startling is that — ignoring pre-paid mobile phones — PlayStation was also the most popular present given in the UK this Christmas. We have all heard about Furbies, the craze of 1998. Well only 350,000 Furbies were sold in the UK this Christmas, 70 per cent of the PlayStation sales. Not only that but PlayStation has been outselling Nintendo 64, its newer and more powerful rival by between two and three to one over recent months.

So how has Sony done it?

The story of PlayStation goes back to 1995, when Sony launched the product in an attempt to break into the lucrative games console market that was dominated by Sega and Nintendo. At the time of the launch, Nintendo was still a year away from launching N64, so Sony only had to worry about Sega Saturn, a console that is every bit as good as PlayStation. Yet PlayStation demolished Saturn in the marketplace and it did so for two reasons.

Firstly, the Sony name, and the structure of the company, helped PlayStation immensely. Many of the old Sega and Nintendo users were teenage boys and young men, who were your archetypal "early adaptors" in marketing terms, although others might prefer to call them nerds. Sony needed to break out of that group and attract people who were interested in interactive entertainment but were not sure about it. It used the fact that it had a good brand name in electronics and well-developed distribution channels to try to attack part of the market that Sega and Nintendo had yet to touch.

Secondly, Sony was used to being able to deliver whole entertainment packages. Ever since it lost the Betamax/VHS battle in the late-1970s, when Sony's superior video recorder technology failed because it could not persuade the Hollywood studios to release videos in the Betamax format, it had been developing its entertainment side. It bought a film studio and a record company and used both of these to cement its position in the electronics markets.

In computer games it was a little more difficult. Sony bought Psygnosis, a games maker based in Liverpool, a couple of years before it launched PlayStation. This allowed it to develop games for its new console, and gave it a good idea of what sold in the games market and how Nintendo and Sega were doing. Critically, Sony allowed all the big games companies access to its computer codes months before its launch, so that there were 20 important games available on PlayStation within a few weeks of its release. Sega was much more secretive.

The fact that so many games were available on PlayStation has also been one reason for its longevity. The second is a strategy of continually reducing the sale price, from an original £249 to £99 today. This has been matched by Nintendo 64, but Sony appears to have won this little price battle. The third has been aggressive marketing through television and sponsorship.

Alan Welsman, UK marketing director for Sony Entertainment, reckons that during 1998 Sony spent £20 million promoting PlayStation in the UK. Most of this has been on television advertising, including the award-winning Double Lives advert made by TBWA, and a large amount of cross promotion with games makers. This means that when the latest Spiro the Dragon, Lara Croft or Crash Bandicoot game comes out, Sony will devise a joint advert and often will pay for it. The next one coming to our screens is for *Metal Gear Solid*, the new hit game from Japanese group Konami, which apparently incorporates real emotional responses as part of the interactive experience.

Sony has also been spending a fortune on sponsorship. In football it has deals with the FA Premier League and the Champions League and it supports underground sports such as snowboarding, skateboarding and inline skating. It has also been sponsoring club nights and some music events, though it would steer clear of something as "uncool" as Phil Collins.

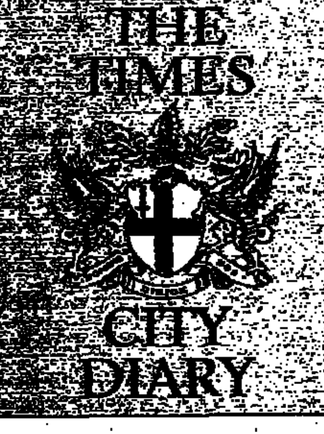
The real challenge will come this summer, when Sega launches Dreamcast, the next generation of console, in Europe. Sony does not have a rival to Dreamcast yet, so it will be fighting Sega with one hand behind its back this Christmas. However, given that PlayStation will be a third of Dreamcast's price, and there will be 20 times as many games available, Sega will have a tough task knocking PlayStation off top spot for Christmas 1999.



Crash Bandicoot has benefited from advertising help from Sony



# Herr raising




"DOING business in Germany" is the title of an internal briefing document sent out to senior managers at Bankers Trust to help them during the merger talks with Deutsche Bank. "The German/American interface in the business world is tricky for both sides," it begins.

"Americans frequently feel that the Germans are rigid and authoritarian, and the Germans find the Americans superficial and often unreliable." Well, that's national stereotypes over and done with.

A German colleague says some of the advice on etiquette is somewhat old-fashioned, but it is, I suppose, useful to know that is is rude to tap your forehead in conversation or to arrive more than 15 minutes late for dinner.

The note ends with a section on cultural attitudes — Americans live in the present, Germans are more long-term oriented. "For Germans, a sense of impending catastrophe is nothing unusual," it warns. US-style optimism "is equated with naiveté".

And no, nothing saying don't mention the war.




"Heap big tobacco merger ahead"

*SO FAR two airlines, and counting, have put themselves forward as the originator of my story on Saturday about Nicola, the foul-mouthed eight-year-old and her unprompted advice to the pilot. British Airways insisted the story, and the pilot, was theirs, although I had my doubts.*

*British Midland is claiming Nicola for their own, from a couple of decades ago. But I have two claims so far for Qantas, and some reliable-looking evidence. Any others?*

## Diving in

TODAY'S trading statement from Kingfisher, the Woolworth, B&Q and Comet retail combine, will be the first to be presented by Mike Hingston, an old mate of Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, who has slipped in unnoticed as the director of corporate communications.

Hingston used to be at Kingfisher — during the Dixons bid he even postponed his honeymoon to be around — but left to make a few bob from his own agency.

His return has eclipsed the man who was doing the job, because Hingston has been given a seat on the executive committee, where the real power is. So John Eyre is taking early retirement at 59.

This is not the first time Mulcahy, who feels comfortable surrounded by like minds, has re-hired a friend. Hingston has a brief to emphasise the European side of Kingfisher — 45 per cent of business comes from outside the UK, a fact that Mulcahy, I understand, thinks has been overlooked. Expect the fact to be afforded some prominence today.

## Inne keeping

THE Old English Pub Company has been casting around for a new name. Shareholders need not fear a huge bill for image consultants and a sudden, Diageo-style makeover into something mis-spelt and obscure, because the company is merely looking to reflect a growing focus on accommodation.

Barry Warwick, the convivial chief executive, was taken by Old English Inns, but the name has already been nabbed by a publican in Notts. However today's trading statement may contain news that Warwick's negotiating skills and a small cheque have proved sufficient.

*VIRGIN TRAINS continues to eradicate the last smidgen of goodwill still attached to the Virgin name from Richard Branson's successes elsewhere. Commuters into Euston have been handed a bizarre apology from Chris Tibbits, the managing director, for the state of the rolling stock.*

*The cleaning equipment is being upgraded. "Unfortunately, this means that for the next few weeks, as we will be cleaning the trains by hand, you may notice that they are not as clean as usual." I think this translates as, sorry the trains are so filthy but we've been cleaning them.*

## Repeat fees

MICHAEL GREEN'S Carlton is set to earn uncounted millions from a pornographic video, I can reveal.

Before Carlton's lawyers book their next expensive holiday, the whole thing is quite legitimate. Disney, as you may have read elsewhere, is having to withdraw 3.4 million copies of *The Rescuers* because they contain unauthorised images. Technicolor, a Carlton subsidiary, produced them but was in no way at fault. So it gets to do the job again. It's an ill wind . . .

MARTIN WALLER
*martin.waller@the-times.co.uk*



Green: unexpected video windfall

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
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| **AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD** | | | | |
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| UK Safeguard | [illegible] | 153.07 | | |
| -do- 1AW to Jun 18 | 135.00 | 135.00 | | |
| UK Equity Safeguard | 114.88 | 122.67 | - 2.21 | 2.02 |
| -do- [illegible] Mar 19 | 110.98 | 110.98 | | |
| US [illegible] | 96.51 | 102.[illegible] | - 0.15 | |
| Cash | 958.52 | 963.31 | | 6.25 |
| UK [illegible] Funds | | | | |
| UK [illegible] Gen | 444.53 | 472.90 | - 1.08 | 1.88 |
| UK Smlr Cos | 83.65 | 89.47 | + 0.60 | 6.50 |
| FTSE [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | + 2.90 | 1.89 |
| Geared UK [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | - 0.19 | 5.75 |
| *Income Funds* | | | | |
| Corp Bd | 88.14 | 91.10 | - 0.17 | 6.66 |
| Monthly Inc | 44.51 | 47.61† | - 0.69 | 7.98 |
| Intel [illegible] Fund | | | | |
| American Gr | 384.11 | 406.50 | - 1.24 | 0.17 |
| American Smll | 178.87 | 190.97 | + 3.28 | |
| [illegible] | #29.707 | 231.238 | - 0.09 | 4.50 |
| [illegible] | 47.[illegible] | 50.80 | - 2.27 | |
| European Smll | 210.38 | 225.59 | - 1.39 | |
| Japan Gen | 108.78 | 114.76 | + 2.83 | |
| Asia Pacific | 66.70 | 71.23 | - 0.66 | 1.09 |
| Pacific Smll | 90.26 | 96.53 | + 1.60 | |
| Greater China | 166.53 | 178.11 | + 3.16 | |
| Latin America | 58.37 | 62.42 | - 0.21 | |
| Intl Growth | 202.80 | 216.82 | - 3.21 | 0.11 |
| Balanced Exempt | 188.84 | 195.89 | | 2.18 |
| Global Strategy | 46.73 | 49.97 | + 1.33 | |
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| Balanced Acc | 74.15 | 88.52 | - 0.84 | 1.64 |
| Balanced Inc | 75.60 | 80.43 | - 0.75 | 1.64 |
| Brit Equity | 1[illegible].53 | 131.00 | - 1.80 | 2.32 |
| Brit Fxd Int Acc | 167.60 | 178.70 | - 2.10 | 3.90 |
| Brit Fxd Int Inc | 103.90 | 110.50 | - 1.40 | 3.90 |
| Europe | 601.30 | 640.30 | -18.10 | 0.57 |
| General Acc | 97[illegible] | 1036.00 | -13.00 | 2.36 |

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| -do- Accum | 592.60 | 628.10 | - 3.70 | 2.71 |
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| Growth Units | 378.30 | 403.70 | - 2.90 | 1.16 |
| Bond | 210.50 | 221.60 | + 0.50 | 4.40 |
| Intl Growth | 353.90 | 371.90 | - 0.80 | 2.11 |
| North American | 428.60 | 455.00 | + 0.50 | |
| Far East | 190.80 | 20[illegible] | - 0.90 | [illegible] |
| UK Smaller Cos | 257.70 | 275.00 | [illegible] | 1.2[illegible] |
| European | 146.50 | 155.80 | - 2.20 | 0.13 |
| Japanese Growth | 28.95 | 30.67 | - 0.01 | |
| High Income | 300.68 | 320.90 | - 1.40 | 2.74 |
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| Smaller Cos (4-1) | 105.50 | 112.30 | + 0.80 | 2.25 |
| Growth | 754.40 | 802.90 | -11.30 | 1.19 |
| Income & Growth # | 592.20 | 630.00 | - 4.50 | 4.32 |
| -do- Accum # | 963.520 | 1024.70 | - 7.40 | 4.32 |
| Japan & Gen | 51.57 | 54.51 | + 1.84 | |
| Hallmark Gwth | 1760.00 | 1834.00† | - 8.00 | 0.88 |
| -do- Accum | 2241.00 | 2335.00 | -10.00 | 0.88 |
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| High Income | 60.40 | 63.88 | | 5.69 |
| Japanese Portfolio | 47.59 | 50.40 | | |
| Pacific Portfolio | 110.78 | 119.12 | | 1.78 |
| UK Equity | 125.54 | 133.82 | | 1.62 |
| UK Equity & Bd | 73.43 | 77.80 | | 5.11 |
| UK Smlr Cos | 49.75 | 53.21 | | 2.27 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| European | 317.47 | 337.71 | - 5.54 | 0.19 |
| Far Eastern | 294.30 | 313.00 | + 0.50 | |
| UK Special Sits | 69.83 | 74.48 | - 0.26 | 0.27 |
| Fd of Inv Tsts | 59.91 | 63.90 | + 0.53 | |
| High Income # | 67.61 | 72.10 | + 0.01 | 4.16 |
| Financial Opps | 78.90 | 84.15 | - 0.20 | 0.72 |
| Growth & Income # | 57.26 | 61.07 | - 0.57 | 2.13 |
| Global Opps | 57.06 | 60.85 | - 0.66 | 0.72 |
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| 0171 558 8888 | | | | |
| Bridge Income # | 417.07 | 443.68 | - 0.54 | 4.48 |
| Esk Growth | 140.40 | 149.35 | | 0.60 |
| Inc & Growth | 101.94 | 108.45† | - 0.44 | 1.71 |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| -do- Accum | 100.80 | 106.70† | - 0.30 | 2.98 |
| Smaller Cos | 66.90 | 70.70 | + 0.20 | 2.08 |
| -do- Accum | 145.10 | 153.40 | + 0.50 | 2.08 |
| Sth East Asia | 244.40 | 258.50 | + 0.30 | 1.79 |
| -do- Accum | 337.70 | 357.20 | + 0.20 | 1.79 |
| UK Equity # | 83.50 | 88.30† | - 0.70 | 4.00 |
| -do- Accum # | 246.80 | 260.90† | - 2.30 | 4.00 |
| UK Growth | 1585.40 | 1676.60 | -14.90 | 1.43 |
| -do- Accum | 1817.70 | 1922.20 | -17.10 | 1.43 |
| **[illegible] UNIT MANAGERS LTD** | | | | |
| Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01[illegible] 894 [illegible] | | | | |
| European Growth | 181.68 | 193.27 | - 3.04 | 0.28 |



| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smaller Cos | 110.33 | 117.37 | + 0.93 | 1.66 |
| Ever Spec Sit Inc | 56.32 | 59.91 | + 0.31 | 2.43 |
| Ever Spec Sit Acc | 60.73 | 64.61 | + 0.34 | 2.43 |
| Pension Growth | 54.38 | 57.85 | + 0.03 | 1.52 |
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| UK Cap | 598.60 | 635.10 | - 4.00 | 1.33 |
| UK Inc Gth # | 640.60 | 679.70 | - 4.80 | 3.17 |
| UK Income # | 427.30 | 451.90 | - 2.30 | 4.35 |
| UK Income Acc # | 451.00 | 478.50 | - 2.40 | 4.35 |
| UK Smr Cos | 314.50 | 336.40 | + 2.00 | 2.11 |
| Euro Gwth | 270.90 | 265.50† | - 3.50 | 0.24 |
| N Amer Gwth | 183.80 | 199.60 | - 2.40 | |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intl Bond | 66.83 | 70.39 | - 0.70 | 2.77 |
| Intl Equity Growth | 118.67 | 125.81 | - 0.48 | 0.36 |
| N Amer Growth | 224.92 | 238.59 | + 1.04 | 0.13 |
| Special Sits Growth | 40.06 | 42.61 | + 0.03 | 1.44 |
| Uk Growth | 661.62 | 703.85 | - 1.60 | 1.89 |
| -do- Accum | 951.51 | 1012.24 | - 2.31 | 1.85 |
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| 01820 823067 | | | | |
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هكذا من الأصل

# Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

## BANKS

[illegible]

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

## BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

## CHEMICALS

[illegible]

## CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

## DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

## ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

## ENGINEERING

[illegible]

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

## HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

## HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

## INSURANCE

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## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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## LEISURE & HOTELS

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## MEDIA

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## OIL & GAS

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## OTHER FINANCIAL

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## PHARMACEUTICALS

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## RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

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## SUPPORT SERVICES

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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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## TRANSPORT

[illegible]

## WATER

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## ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]



## BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5% 3%

[illegible]



CLASSICAL CDS

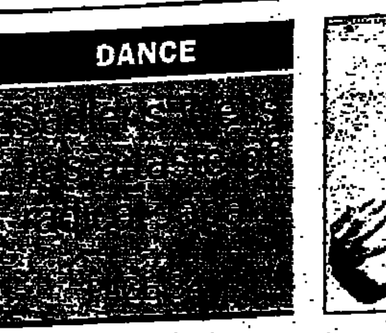
Who spent the best afternoon with Debussy?

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

DANCE





# Stylish highlights, but needs a trim

THEATRE

**Perfect Days**
**Hampstead**

Barbara's biological clock is going tick tock — or, as it sometimes seems in Liz Lochhead's warm, likeable but long-winded comedy, tick tock tock tock tock. She is a Glaswegian, turning 39, separated from her husband Davie, successful enough in her career as a hairdresser to appear in TV makeover programmes, but desperate to have a child, though not necessarily in the old-fashioned way "where the husband is present at the conception". What is she to do?

Her mother, a bigoted old trout of whom Barbs is inordinately fond, thinks she should be reconciled with Davie: but he is besotted with a 22-year-old dolly. Barbs herself persuades a gay friend, Brendan, to donate regular lashings of sperm via a turkey-baster. She also starts an affair with her sister-in-law's son, who was adopted while a tot but has come to Glasgow in search of his long-lost mother. The result is a successful pregnancy, but one that occurs in so unexpected yet so satisfyingly logical a way that you should forgive me for giving away the plot.

I find myself in at least two minds about this play. One of those minds is grateful to Lochhead for creating several plausible if not-too-deep characters, prime among them Barbs herself. It is a role that gives the excellent Siobhan Redmond every chance to toss her mane of red hair and nervily pace her giant loft, while projecting the forlorn resilience or artificially bright desolation of a woman who, as she remarks, "can't see how I can be pushing 40 when I still don't know what I'm going to do when I grow up".

But the other mind persistently grumbled at scenes that almost invariably consist of duologues involving Barbs and A.N. Other and absolutely invariably go on too long. Dramatic momentum is not yet Lochhead's strength, nor is understatement. She needs to learn to hint, suggest, imply — and not heave thoughts and feelings at us as if they were cabers and we were spectators at some Lowland gathering where prizes are given for verbal labour.

Yet her humanity is not in doubt. I wondered at times if she had fully pondered the implications for the child of being brought up by a mother who would be 58, busy, and probably still unmarried or unpartnered when he or she reached 18: but there is plenty in the play to show that she sees the demands that single parenthood will make on Barbs herself. After all, there are two other lone or near-lone mums on display — Ann Scott-Jones as the protagonist's own, irritating mother, Anne Kidd as the friend who gave up her first-born and is now warily reconciled with him — and both have clearly struggled to make good.

John Tiffany, who directs, could do more to quicken the pace, but gets as much as can reasonably be expected from his supporting performers: John Kazek as kindly Brendan, Enzo Cilenti in the somewhat awkwardly written role of Barbs's eager young lover, and, above all, Scott-Jones as a mum with loud, blunt opinions and the embarrassing habit of wearing cardies plastered with hearts and tiny Christmas trees or presenting her daughter with lurid magenta jerseys festooned with stars. When this feisty figure is onstage the temperature rises. When she is absent it is usually milder than it might be.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Siobhan Redmond is celebrity hairdresser Barbs in Liz Lochhead's warm, likeable but long-winded comedy *Perfect Days*

# This short, unhappy life

**Krapp's Last Tape**
**Arts**

This Beckett evening is divided into four parts. The first, in which Edward Petherbridge plays Krapp, lasts 45 minutes; the interval extends to about 30; the second Beckett piece, *Breath*, occupies 35 seconds, after which Petherbridge returns to the stage for what is described as "question-fielding" but which on the press night turned out to be a recital of anecdotes mostly to do with Petherbridge himself. An odd evening, therefore.

Back in the 1970s Albert Finney's *Krapp* was mated with the premiere of *Not I*, 15 or so minutes of searing monologue staged in a pale light in which we could just make out Billie Whitelaw's mouth ceaselessly babbling. Krapps may come and go but that Whitelaw mouth stays with me.

This will not be the case with *Breath*, though I am pleased to have caught sight of it at last. (Blink and you miss it.) It is said to be the shortest play ever written — the stage directions take longer to read than the piece itself. A stage littered with rubbish becomes visible in a light that moves from faint to less faint to more faint. At the same time we hear what Beckett calls an "instant of recorded vagitus", ie, a baby's cry, a breath is inhaled, exhaled and the cry heard again as the light fades. That's life.

The applause developed out of gulps of laughter, probably recognising Beckett's nerve more than the work itself, which only superficially seems the quintessence of Beckettism. He has finally annihilated both words and action but his best work injects us with short doses of precise, concise language.

This is his achievement in *Krapp*. Here a man is marking his 69th birthday by playing the tape he recorded 30 years earlier. Memories of that year surge to the surface, and what Petherbridge conveys so admirably, co-directing himself with David Hunt, is the stillness of the man listening to his younger self, so rashly confident, so blithely unaware of the withering years ahead.

With his wild white hair and raw-nosed face he has the look of a clown stripped of his make-up, defenceless against these assaults from the past. For it is not the sweeps of rhetoric that engage him — he furiously winds the tape past such passages — but the limpid account of drifting in a boat with a girl. Their love affair is reaching its end and, 30 years on, he rewinds the tape again and again to hear his simple, vivid phrases. Beckett gives Krapp no words to express his response but Petherbridge stares into the nothingness of his present day and, within a certain range, we complete the picture of his desolation for ourselves. That's life.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER

Edward Petherbridge (Krapp) listens to his younger self

**CONCERTS:** Spain meets Russia in Manchester; impressive work from the youngsters; and a centenary salute

# Homage to Catalonia

**Hallé/Foster**
**Manchester**

As music director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Lawrence Foster has taken on a whole new repertoire. Spanish music, Falla above all, he obviously knew before, but Catalan music is something different. So the Spanish and Catalan programme he brought to his concert with the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester aroused keen anticipation and nervous apprehension in equal proportions — the apprehension deriving largely from the feeling that the Tchaikovsky symphony clumsily tacked on at the end would do little or nothing to compensate for the box-office negative represented by the rest of the concert.

In fact, the Bridgewater Hall was far from full. Persuasive publicity might have improved the situation but, bearing in mind that it might also have led to more widespread disappointment with at least one of the Catalan pieces, it is probably as well that it was not applied in this case.

Xavier Montsalvatge's *Serenata a Lydia* for flute and orchestra was very welcome, even though it is probably more successful in its original flute and piano version. Certainly, one can imagine the introduction for unaccompanied flute, which seemed disproportionately long in these circumstances, making a rather more atmospheric effect in the church at Cadaqués where the piece was first performed. But it is resourcefully and delicately scored in this version too and its material is so sensitively adapted to the solo instrument as to inspire a most accomplished and stylish performance from the Barcelona flautist Magdalena Martinez.

The music director of the Barcelona SO might, on the other hand, have spared us the Trombone Concerto of Salvador Brotons, which is as crudely put together as the translation of the programme note that came with it. It is true that concertos for trombone have always had a built-in disadvantage — which is why there are so few of them — and the problem is all the more acute now that they more or less have to take a variety of extended techniques into account. The Spanish soloist, Ricardo Casero, proved himself equal to the demands of Brotons's Op 70 (not bad going for a composer of 40) but without demonstrating that there is anything distinctive or more than minimally interesting in it, least of all its grotesque and structurally too early cadenza.

If it made good sense to open the concert with three dances from Falla's *El amor brujo*, it made none at all to end it with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony — except that the latter work was delivered in a performance that was emotionally and dramatically fresh, particularly well coloured in the scherzo, and secure in the long-standing faith the Hallé and Foster have in each other.

GERALD LARNER

# Fresh in the memory

Different though they all are, a "typical" concert in the PLG Young Artists Series usually consists of several short pieces written sometime between 1950 and last week. But Thursday's event featured a single, massive work composed in the early years of the century: Charles Ives's *Concord* Sonata, given a hugely impressive performance by Australian pianist **Mark Kruger**.

No work represents the spirit of Ives better than this sonata, which takes its name from the Massachusetts village that was home to the New England Transcendentalists. Much of it still sounds as modern as ever, especially the long and lofty first movement. Kruger, who played the entire work from memory, unfolded this convincingly, showing his command of pianistic colour in everything from the clanging chords to the dusky musings.

If the jazzy and experimental scherzo-like movement that follows offers the listener some relief, it is even more taxing for the performer: Kruger demonstrated all his virtuosity here, before relaxing into the almost folksy beauty of the third movement and the hazy finale. He was joined at the close by the flautist Kathryn Thomas, for the nostalgic melody that settles the whole work.

In the main concert of the evening, the **Galliard Ensemble** wind quintet played four living composers: two were present, one aged 89 and the other 16. Minna Keal's return to composition in the mid-1970s was signalled by her Wind Quintet, a work of bold and sometimes poignant gestures. The fluency of James Olsen's writing in *Imbroglio*, full of lively ideas and a sometimes quirky lyricism, marks him out as a name to watch.

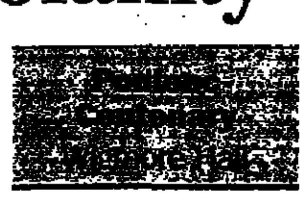
Birtwistle's first published work, *Refrains and Choruses*, makes demands that were easily met by the Galliards: the capricious textures were handled with the same assurance they brought to Ligeti in the beguiling Six Bagatelles. Ligeti may still have been under the influence of Stravinsky here, but he was already experimenting with unusual tone colour.

Sharing this concert was the French harpist **Anne-Sophie Bertrand**, an artist of real poise. Her programme included one premiere: the Belgian Franz Geysen's *Heptominomania*. Based on the number seven, as its title suggests, the piece is a *perpetuum mobile* that builds from a gentle fluttering to a vigorous end.

Works by Heinz Holliger and Marius Constant brought forth a dazzling display, and the even more extreme contrasts in Carter's *Bariolage* were shaped cohesively in a performance of great beauty. Paul Patterson's *Spiders* gave Bertrand scope for wit too: she has everything it takes to be a "complete" musician.

JOHN ALLISON

# Pout, patter and profanity



When Francis Poulenc and Pierre Bernac gave their first London recital after the liberation of Paris, it was on Poulenc's birthday, January 7, and it was at the Wigmore Hall. On the same date and in the same venue, 54 years on, the centenary of the composer's birth was celebrated in a gala concert on Thursday which, I suspect, would have pleased Poulenc no end.

He may well have been surprised at the devoted silence which attended Felicity Lott's little encore performance of the slinky *Chemin d'amour*. Poulenc always felt that, if he were remembered at all, it would be by works like his *Stabat Mater*, not by those echoes of the café-concert and the music-hall.

It was, indeed, just those songs which continue to make Poulenc a composer the French love to hate which were entrusted to Lott and her pianist Graham Johnson. The *Trois poèmes de Louise Lalanne* of 1931, and the *Metamorphoses* of 1943 had Lott pouting, pattering and tra-la-la-ing, while Johnson, enjoying the sea-spray of the *Reine des muettes* and the mischief of *Paganini*, seemed for all the world like a reincarnation of Poulenc himself, composing as he sat at the piano.

Not a hint of café or cabaret, not a trace of Jacques Trenet was to be heard, though, in the nine sombre prewar settings of the poetry of Paul Eluard in the cycle *Tel jour, telle nuit*. And now it was time for Ian Bostridge. Poulenc would surely have been deeply moved at the intense imaginative focus of the young tenor: at the way the lip curled and the pulse fluttered in the angry song about the gypsy wagon, and at the extraordinary high half-voice Bostridge sustained in the singing of *Une herbe pauvre*, the weak grass appearing withered in the snow.

Even with the ballast of these more heartfelt songs, an entire evening of Poulenc song can wear a bit thin. So it was good to have the young pianist Steven Osborne on hand to give tenderly witty performances of three of Poulenc's *Novelettes*. Good, too, to be reminded by the BBC Singers of the composer's skill in choral writing in *Un soir de neige* and a handful of the folksy *Chansons françaises*.

And, best of all, the charivari of musical characters which make up the Nash Ensemble were ideally cast, with pianist Susan Tomes and baritone Francois le Roux, to inhabit the leering masks of Poulenc's "cantate profane", *Le bal masqué*, with its cracking whip, truculent cornet and clowning woodwind. The concert may be heard on Radio 3 at 7.30pm tonight.

HILARY FINCH

BUILDING A LIBRARY

## A guide to the best classical recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**DEBUSSY: PRELUDE A L'APRES-MIDI D'UN FAUNE**
**Reviewed by Stephen Johnson**

DEBUSSY'S famous Prelude isn't simply a superlative piece of orchestral tone-painting, it is perhaps the most effective of all attempts to translate a piece of poetry into musical terms. In Stéphane Mallarmé's poem *L'après-midi d'un faune*, a young faun submits to lascivious, ultimately blasphemous fantasies as he basks in the full heat of the Mediterranean sun.

Debussy follows the poem quite closely, from the incantation of the faun's pipes (solo flute) at the opening, via the rapt central hymn to the end, where he stretches out his limbs in the sand and "succumbs to noontime's ceremonial silence".

Few flautists capture that incantatory quality in the opening flute solo as well as the **London Philharmonic's Jonathan Snowden** in the recording conducted by **Serge Baudo (Classics for Pleasure, CD-CFP 6022, £6.99)**. The continuation — quiet ripples of colour from harp, distant horn-calls, and one of the most magical silences in all music — is just as fine. Snowden isn't the only impressive flautist: there's Michel Debost of the Orchestre de Paris, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, or the Cleveland Orchestra's Joshua Smith, as recorded under Pierre Boulez (both on DG). But Debost tends to stand out as the "star" of the Barenboim version; when he's not playing the performance has a tendency to heaviness. Smith is more a *primus inter pares*, but the beauty is all rather chaste, as is the performance as a whole — and you won't find much about chastity in Mallarmé's poem.

Herbert von Karajan's earlier (and much the finer) DG recording with the Berlin Philharmonic appeared in 1965, but it sounds very presentable in CD transfer. In this version the central hymn is very much the high point: magnificent, sumptuous, it rises, crests and falls like an immense wave.

Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra (Sony Classical) stir the emotions too. Ormandy's is a version which sings, and it's full of vibrant, truly Mediterranean colours. So too — remarkably — is the 1939 recording by the LPO conducted by Thomas Beecham (Pearl). Beecham is never quite as ardent as Ormandy, but there's some exquisite solo playing, and the coda has a poetry of its own. If it had to be one recording though, I'd choose Baudo: consistently poetic, beautifully played, in an atmospheric modern recording, and at budget price.

*To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Schubert's* Trout *Piano Quintet*

# Last orders in the waste land

**VISUAL ART:**

Charles Saatchi not only financed Neurotic Realism, he also named it. **Richard Cork** views the results



No artist exhibited at *Neurotic Realism Part 1* displays more apocalyptic relish than Tomoko Takahashi. Her mammoth installation *Line-Out* (1998) looks like a nightmarish prophecy of chronic millennial malfunction

Despite his prodigious appetite for the latest art, Charles Saatchi has until now stopped short of naming a new movement. When Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and their contemporaries first appeared at his gallery in the early 1990s, their show was given the non-committal title *Young British Artists*. Its studied neutrality acknowledged that the heyday of "isms" belonged to a distant era. Before the First World War, Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism and Futurism were only the most notorious of the revolutionary groups that erupted during Modernism's most turbulent years. But artists in recent decades have shied away from labels, so the arrival of Neurotic Realism at the Saatchi Gallery is a great surprise.

Equally unusual is the fact that this movement was invented by a collector. From Impressionism onwards, many avant-garde upheavals derived from terms of abuse, hurled by enraged critics or gallery visitors. Only a few groups were named by the artists themselves, and none was the brainchild of a patron who purchased their work. In that respect Saatchi's launching of Neurotic Realism breaks with historical precedent. It seems to inaugurate a bolder, more open and partisan approach on his part.

Neurotic Realism is not, however, completely divorced from the artists displayed in the Royal Academy's *Sensation* exhibition. Martin Maloney, the only painter in this new show, was included in that survey. The overlap extends to the ICA's *Die Young Stay Pretty*, organised by Maloney last year. Among its most prominent participants was Steven Gontarski, whose sculpture now reappears at the Saatchi Gallery. *Die Young Stay Pretty* turned out to be a disappointingly slight event. But Neurotic Realism, in this first instalment at least, is far more substantial.

Nobody displays more apocalyptic relish than **Tomoko Takahashi**. Tokyo-born but now based in London, she has been given by far the largest area and handles it with gusto. Viewed from the top of the steps, her mammoth installation looks like a nightmarish prophecy of chronic millennial malfunction. The entire floor is strewn with detritus scavenged from skips, dumps and friends' attics. Initially, the room resembles a technological graveyard, a wasteland of instant obsolescence. But, as I scanned the piles of junk, signs of activity began to assert themselves.

The bars of a small heater glow orange inside an office drawer. The deck of a record-player spins round, carrying watch mechanisms rather than LPs and relaying no sound at all. It is as futile as the TV sets scattered around the room, flickering and buzzing but failing to transmit any coherent images. Although clocks tick on crazily chaotic table-tops, they are incapable of telling the correct time. A glass water-jug bubbles pointlessly on a hot-plate, while a nearby electric fan swivels inside a metal box. The sense of absurdity is reinforced by a grumbling spin-drier, vigorously rotating with its door open and nothing inside. Reminiscent of Bill Woodrow's early work, it counts here only as one of a thousand redundant objects.

Encountered on the pavement of a blighted street, they would all be dismissed as rubbish. Reassembled in this installation, though, they finally take on an unlikely order of their own. Takahashi has carved out narrow pathways between the heaps, enabling us to pick a path gingerly through the bedlam. At the same time, though, she conveys an overwhelming sense of pulverised breakdown. Like the crash-helmet resting upside-down on an abandoned case, or the corner crammed with fragments from half-crushed bicycles, the space resembles the scene of a cataclysmic accident caused by forces beyond human control.

If Takahashi's contribution manages to sound an end-of-the-century warning, **Brian C. Griffiths**'s roomful of equipment reduces dysfunction to a childlike level. The control consoles lining the walls should be streamlined, gleaming and state-of-the-art, fit for a set in a science-fiction movie. In reality, though, they are made of cardboard boxes joined together with ungainly strips of brown tape. This is *Star Trek*'s starship reconstructed by a cack-handed, and quite possibly deranged, DIY devotee. The clocks and monitors turn out to be made of pencils or burnt matchsticks glued on to cheap plastic plates. Chipped, smeared and stained, these redundant space-age monoliths are at once laughable and forlorn. Long since discarded, they have lapsed into melancholy and inertia. So far, although the presence of human beings has been implied in the exhibition, they remain impossible to detect. But **Paul Smith**'s powerful photographic images focus on people. In *Artist Rifle Series*, uniformed figures carry out manoeuvres informed, no doubt, by Smith's own army experiences. Moving between beach, woodland and swamp, they appear at first to have a documentary veracity.

Soon enough, however, we realise that the young men's faces are oddly similar. Using digital techniques, Smith has inserted himself in all of them. Like a demented actor bent on taking every part in the drama, he plays the three soldiers grimly shovelling sand as well as the corpse half-buried below them. Armed with a Sten-gun, he emerges from a forest tottering under the weight of his own injured body slumped across his shoulders.

Sometimes, it is possible to ignore his pervasive presence and simply admire these images as arresting, even alarming re-creations of death-haunted military exercises. But Smith does not allow us to forget him for long. When he appears ten times over as a crowd of victorious soldiers cheering their conquest of a burnt-out tank, his sheer recognisability makes the celebrations look like a charade. The play-acting involved in training exercises is here pushed to the point of outright ridicule, and yet the underlying coldness of these lethal rituals is, in a strange way, intensified by Smith's interventions.

Both here, and in another series of lager-lout partying called *Make my Night*, his insistence on posing for every figure gives the pictures a demented mood. Whether urinating in the gents, kissing a phallic cucumber or pouring booze on a mate in the pub, Smith's identical drunken lads eventually take on the guise of crazed automatons.

In this sense, they have unexpected links with the bodies in **Steven Gontarski's** sculpture. Made of PVC stuffed with polyester wadding, most of his figures are involved in orgiastic coupling. Although their faces are so blank that they verge on the robotic, human details have been added to their shimmering limbs. Matted hair can be detected, along with transfer tattoos and kinky socks hanging off leg-stumps.

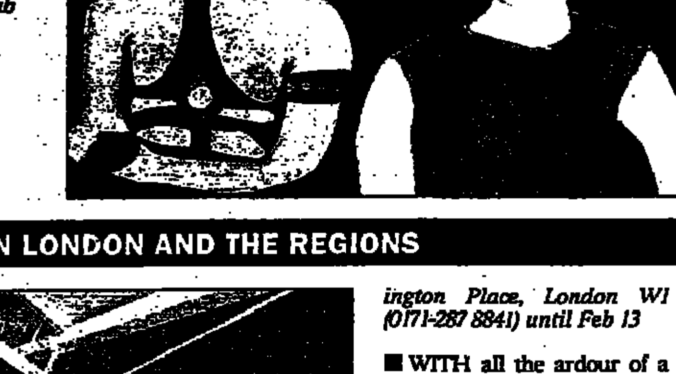
But even the synthetic clothing serves only to stress their creepiness. Whether lunging lustfully at one another or intertwining so closely that their separate forms are impossible to identify, these libidinous performers are all repellent. One pair, copulating on a Perspex plinth, seem to be sucking their faces into a single, hideously distorted, glutinous mass. For all their voracious concentration on sex, their bodies look so prosthetic that a feeling of futility hangs over even their most acrobatic feats.

**Martin Maloney**, at 37 the oldest exhibitor, operates as an *éminence grise* in Neurotic Realist circles. Here, however, he seems most closely allied with Gontarski's macabre pleasure-hunting. His paintings have grown larger, darker and more erotically explicit. Walking into Maloney's main room is akin to entering a gay club where everyone is hooked on unsafe sex. Tongues hang out, buttocks are brandished and fingers grab hungrily at dangling genitals.

But there is no sign of joy. The emphasis throughout these deliberately crude, daubed canvases is on impersonal gratification, pursued automatically by people devoid of love. Rave culture may be regarded by its participants as heaven, but in Maloney's panoramas it looks more like hell.

● Neurotic Realism Part 1 *at the Saatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, London NW8 (0171-624 8299) from Thursday until April 4*





An emphasis on impersonal gratification, pursued by people devoid of love: (left) Steven Gontarski's *Lesbians Acquiesce* (1998) and Martin Maloney's *Sex Club* (1998)

## OTHER EXHIBITIONS IN LONDON AND THE REGIONS

# Balloons that speak volumes

A CLUSTER of helium balloons nestle against the ceiling. Look closer and you will see that they are comic-strip speech bubbles. But nothing is written on them. **Philippe Parreno's** artwork is intended as a comment in 3D on the sheer volume and vacancy of a chattering media culture.

But the blank speech bubbles also encapsulate the spirit of *Dumbpop*. Their silence speaks. And the viewer should be suspicious of the self-deprecation which coyly labels the work of this international group of artists "dumb". These pieces are neither stupid nor mute. Sure, they are easily accessible, superficially jolly and decorative in a Sixties sort of way. But they are not complicit with the consumerism of the pop culture they pretend to represent. **Graham Little's** sculpture blends minimal Sixties art with its candy-coloured fashions, questioning the point of banal enjoyment. **Jun Hasegawa's** cartoon teenagers balance between slickness and sense.

*Jerwood Gallery, 171 Union Street, London SE1 (0171-654 0171), until Jan 17*



Philippe Parreno's *Speech Bubbles* at the Jerwood Gallery

■ IN A month when Monet is at the forefront of the art calendar, **Robert Davies** makes an interesting contemporary comment on the great Impressionist's theme. Water is the subject-matter of his latest show. Like Monet he studies its moods, its rhythms and shimmer. But Davies's is an up-to-date look. Watching hours of video footage of freshwater on a monitor screen, he takes photographic stills of what he thinks are the best moments. Nature is filtered through technology in what amounts to an almost classical meditation on colour. The results are mesmerising. Close up you can see the pixellations of the screen, the image analysed into lines and grids. But take a few steps back, and the shadows and ripples resolve into almost romantic scenes.

*Jason & Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, London W1 (0171-287 8841) until Feb 13*

■ WITH all the ardour of a gang of schoolboys drawing up the rules of their back-of-the-bikeshed society, the Italian Futurists were continually producing manifestos. From 1909, when **Filippo Tommaso Marinetti** shocked the public with an iconoclastic column on the front page of *Le Figaro*, to 1944 when this provocative Italian poet died, more than 300 manifestos were published. Controversial and aggressive, they were intended to incite argument and anger. The exhibition, *Zang Tumb Tumb*, marshalls a fascinating and typographically impressive array of manifestos which are, in many ways, the most historically interesting aspect of this revolutionary movement.

*Estorick Collection, 39a Canonbury Square, London N1 (0171-704 9522) until April 11*

■ THE Arts Council Collection buys some 50 new works a year, attempting to decide which artists are "here to stay". Only posterity can make the final judgment. But at least this show offers a fair representation of what has been talked about over the past decade. The organisers find a theme of domesticity to provide a fragile link between pieces as disparate as **Rachel Whiteread's** doorknobs, the only remaining evidence of her now vanished *House*, **Kerry Stewart's** unsettling sculpture of a woman performing an impossible balancing act, **Anya Gallaccio's** candlelit meditation on temporality or **Tracey Emin's** bedspread, which boldly declares "Here to Stay".

*Aberystwyth Arts Centre (01970 623232) until Jan 30, then Metropole Arts Centre, Folkestone, Feb 13-March 14*

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

# ARTS

## ■ LISTINGS
## Lawrence Inquiry staged

### RECOMMENDED TODAY

**Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie**

#### LONDON

**ROMEO AND JULIET.** Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope dance the roles of the star-crossed young lovers in the season's first performance by the Royal Ballet of Kenneth MacMillan's romantic work.
**Festival Hall** (0171-960 4242). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

**ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT:** Herbert Blomstedt, music director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus, conducts the period instrument band for the first time. The programme comprises Schubert's Second Symphony and Brahms's First Piano Concerto played on an 1875 Bösendorfer by Alexei Lubimov.
**Queen Elizabeth Hall** (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm.


Herbert Blomstedt leads the OAE at the QEH

**THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE:** A dramatised reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings. Profoundly relevant.
**Tricycle** (0171-328 1000). Opens tonight, 7pm.

**THE ENGLISH CONCERT:** Vivaldi, Bach and Marcello receive the period instrument treatment here as Trevor Pinnock directs his internationally acclaimed ensemble.
**Wigmore Hall** (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

#### ELSEWHERE

**ABERDEEN:** Scottish Ballet's Christmas season tour touches down with Peter Darrell's Cinderella. Yurie Shinohara dances tonight's lead, with two cast changes to come.
**His Majesty's Theatre** (01224 641122). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Jim Robinson, wrongly imprisoned as one of the Bridgewater Four, is the author of **Just, Not Fair**, an account of his life. Jessica Dromgoole directs Malcolm Tierney for Moving Theatre Company.
**Birmingham Rep.** (0121-236 6771). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

**COVENTRY:** The popular soprano Lesley Garrett opens the new season here with a gala concert of favourite operatic arias and soprano solos. She is backed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Peter Robinson.
**Warwick Arts Centre** (01203 524524). Tonight, 7.30pm.

### NEW WEST END SHOWS

**Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London**
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **ALEGRIA:** The breathtakingly exotic Cirque du Soleil returns to London with further prodigious feats of contortions fire-eating and clowning.
**Albert Hall** (0171-589 8212).

□ **ACE OF CLUBS:** Noël Coward's musical frivolity (songs include Sail Away and Something About a Sailor) dating from 1949 and set in a seedy Soho night club.
**Wimbledon Studio** (0181-540 0362).

□ **A SPECIAL OFFER:** Set in a display room, inspired by the look of Sharps Bedrooms and the stories of Raymond Carver, Alice Power and Alice Purcell imagine the inner life of a model couple. Part of the London Mime Festival.
**Young Vic Studio** (0171-928 6363)

□ **KRAPP'S LAST TAPE:** Edward Petherbridge's touring performance as Beckett's ancient sensualist replaying lost time. Also the rarely performed Breath — total duration: 35 seconds. See review, page 32
**Arts Theatre** (0171-836 3334)

□ **THE MEMORY OF WATER:** Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Shelagh Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memories.
**Vaudeville** (0171-836 9987)

□ **PERFECT DAYS:** Siobhan Redmond's award-winning performance as the thirtysomething celebrity hairdresser longing for a baby. John Tiffany directs Liz Lochhead's poignant comedy. See review, page 32.
**Hampstead** (0171-722 9301).

□ **PETER PAN:** Justin Salinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in the return of Fiona Laird's enjoyable production.
**Olivier** (0171-452 3000).

□ **COURT IN THE ACT:** 19th-century French farce by Hennequin and Veber catching the law with its trousers down.
**Orange Tree** (0181-940 3633)

### FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

**James Christopher's choice of the latest movies**

#### NEW RELEASES

**LITTLE VOICE** (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent sleaze around in the foreground.

**THE SIEGE** (15). Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, and Bruce Willis trip over each others' bootlaces as they try to defuse an Arab terrorist offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted. Director Edward Zwick lingers a real raw nerve.

**PSYCHO** (15): Hopeless remake of Hitchcock's original. Gus Van Sant re-shoots this classic fear movie in colour, misses the ironies and misplaces the shuddering suspense. With Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche.

**π (Pi)** (15): Low-budget sci-fi adventure by David Aronofsky that charts the madness of a genius mathematician haunted by nightmares and money-mad investors. Sean Gullette is the mesmerising lead

**ANGEL DUST** (ICA): Cool, classy Japanese melodrama about a psychic detective who has to nail her former lover and mentor for killings on the Tokyo tube. Sogo Ishii directs a compelling psychodrama that ultimately has too many twists.

**TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT** (PG): A reassuringly scratchy reprint of Howard Hawks's 1944 classic in which Lauren Bacall shoots fish in a barrel and Humphrey Bogart falls madly in love.

#### CURRENT

**THE ACID HOUSE** (18). Three darkly comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination by Irvine Welsh. Director, Paul McGuigan

**SITCOM** (18) A French bourgeois family unbuttons itself. Mildly diverting lampoon, excellently acted ensemble cast. Director, François Ozon

**STAR TREK: INSURRECTION** (PG) Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceable race who have found the elixir of youth


Dance, Japanese-style: the Sankai Juku company, the world's most popular butoh troupe, in *Shijima*, the work it brings to London next week

# Mad for designer chic

**DANCE:** Butoh has come a long way since its birth in 1950s Japan, as **Christopher Bowen** discovered when he met up with Sankai Juku

Sex scandals are nothing new in the dance world. From the allegedly onanistic excesses of Nijinsky's first performance of *L'Après-midi d'un faune* to Michael Clark and Stephen Petronio's bed show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, a spot of rumpy-pumpy surfaces every so often to lend the dance community a touch of newsworthy notoriety. Yet surely no dance event has been launched in quite such a sensationally scandalous manner as Japanese butoh.

In 1959 the first recorded performance of this extraordinary dance form included a scene in which a young man simulated sex with a chicken by strangling it between his thighs. In the furore that followed, I doubt if anyone seriously bothered to ask how it was for the chicken, but for performers Tatsumi Hijikata and Yoshito Ohno the uproar heralded the suitably messy birth of an art form designed to present uncomfortable truths about Japanese society in a postwar, nuclear age. The school of dance subsequently developed by Hijikata, Ohno and their disciples became known as "ankoku butoh" (dark soul dance) and was characterised by white-painted, near-naked bodies, painfully slow movements, grimacing expressions and contorted postures.

All of these elements retain their potent presence within this still-evolving dance form — now usually referred to simply as butoh — but with a group like Sankai Juku, which visits Sadler's Wells next week, the explicit choreographic extremes of the early pioneers have given way to exquisite theatrical imagery and a design aesthetic that makes most Robert Wilson productions look untidy by comparison. There are no rapes or sacrificial fowls in Sankai Juku's shows — though there are plenty of eggs; more of them later — but that is not to say the group's take on butoh is without shock value.

The company caused a sensation at the 1982 Edinburgh International Festival when, in a sort of slow-motion butoh bungee jump, the five-man group lowered themselves upside-down from the roof of Lothian Regional Council headquarters. In *Homage to Prehistory*, the unfurling of these fragile bodies suggested the passage between birth and death, an allusion which was made real three years later when, during a performance in Seattle, a rope broke and one of the troupe fell to his death.

There is less scope for fatal risk-taking in Sankai Juku's works these days, but the images of decay, desperation and eroticism that constitute an inherent part of this dance form can still disturb and fascinate. At the climax of *Shijima*, the work the company brings to London, four dancers rise in suspended crucifixion as their leader, choreographer and star performer, Ushio Amagatsu, writhes in silent agony below.

These haunting images indicate that butoh, born out of student protest and a backlash against American materialism in the Fifties, still has an angry edge. But, as Amagatsu explains, it is a different anger. "The experience of this generation of artists is not the same as the first," he says. "Butoh was created by people who had experienced a change of values after the war. As for me, I don't know the war. Yes, there is anger in the work, but it is the anger which all human beings have. It is not Japanese anger."

> 'The anger of butoh is no longer Japanese anger'

According to Amagatsu, the most important aspect in the development of Sankai Juku (which translates as Academy of the Mountain and Sea) was getting out of Japan. "In Europe I experienced many different cultures, and I realised that differences are very important in understanding the essence of our own culture, and ourselves."

Yet the very strangeness of butoh, the way in which these slight, lean dancers transform themselves into tremulous creatures with stooped bodies and totally impassive or grotesquely exaggerated expressions, can make the art form seem alien to Western audiences. The movements seem so internalised and personal to the individual dancers; how are we to view them?

"Individuality is very important," explains Amagatsu. "But the aim is always to show the universality. That is the theme of all my works — life and death, it is the same everywhere. In one sense Sankai Juku is a Japanese company, but our work is common to everyone. For example, the white face and body and shaved head are always compared to the Japanese traditions of the past. But for me these forms are universal; white faces and bodies are represented in African and South American art. They are all over the world."

There are those, however, who feel that Amagatsu's quest for universality has led him too far from butoh's roots. Some observers regard Sankai Juku's absorption of Western theatricality with great suspicion. The dance critic and historian Kazuko Kuniyoshi has written of the "mediocrity" in Amagatsu's work. And when the troupe performed its hugely successful *The Egg Stands Out of Curiosity* in Glasgow in 1990 the festival's deputy director, Neil Wallace, was heard to complain that Sankai Juku wasn't "real butoh". He has a point.

Yet exquisitely crafted works such as *Shijima*, with its massive bas-relief setting of stacked body-forms and designer chic costumes accessorised with stylish egg earrings, give Sankai Juku an undeniable gloss. This design aesthetic is, suggests Amagatsu, as much a part of his nature as nature itself. "I grew up near the city and the sea where the air was transparent — that influenced me greatly. An appreciation of design is in my character."

So, too, is a clear appreciation of other dance forms. Amagatsu studied Graham technique in Tokyo as a young man, and there are moments in his mesmerising solos when he appears to be channelling the divine Martha in her long woollens period. As Amagatsu once wrote: "When I think of dance, the image of a prehistoric painting comes to mind." Martha, one feels, would approve.

● *Sankai Juku is at Sadler's Wells (0171-863 8000) Jan 18-22*

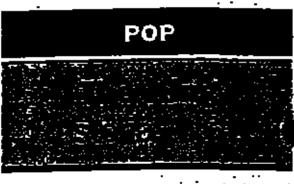
## ■ POP
## Postman Elvis

# Elvis attains Nirvana

IS IT a brilliant piece of Post Modern irony or gross bad taste? The King is an Elvis Presley clone with a difference: instead of recycling *Love Me Tender*, he impersonates Elvis impersonating other dead singers. Hence we get Marc Bolan, Kurt Cobain and even Jimi Hendrix in the unmistakable Presley style.

The architect of this bizarre conceit is Jim Brown, a 31-year-old father of five from Belfast who has taken a two-year sabbatical from his job as a postman to have a crack at becoming the world's most famous ersatz Elvis.

POP



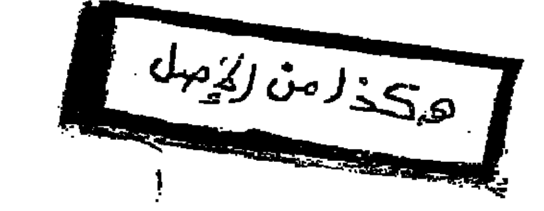
So far it seems to be working. Brown has been signed by EMI, John Peel has enthusiastically championed his album *Gravelands* and an appearance on Chris Evans's *TFI Friday* ensured that this London date sold out so quickly that a second had to be added the following night.

The logic, if there is any, is that Elvis never wrote his own material, so why not cover a few that he never got around to recording? As a piece of nostalgic wish-fulfilment it had its attractions. The King hit the stage with a tough-sounding rock band and gave us the Presley we would all prefer to remember — raunchy, leather-clad Elvis rather than the bloated Las Vegas Elvis.

Surprisingly the audience was young and studentish, many of them not even born when Presley died in 1977. Brown himself was only ten at the time, but has learnt to play his part stylishly. The more unlikely the cover, the better he carried off the joke. A version of *No Woman No Cry* that blandly segued into *Can't Help Falling in Love* was pointless, for it was all too possible to imagine the real Presley of later years stripping Bob Marley's classic of its dignity. But Presley would surely never have sung Joy Division's *Love Will Tear Us Apart*, Thin Lizzy's *Whiskey in the Jar* or Hendrix's *Voodoo Chile*, which made Brown's renderings genuinely witty.

The King is a lot more fun than a night down the pub with a karaoke machine. What his success says about the state of modern music is another matter.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON





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- ENVIRONMENT
- IP/IT/TELECOMS
- PRIVATE CAPITAL
- TAX

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Tim Marshall, Adrian Fox or Gareth Quarry on 0171 405 6062 (0171 285 1441 evenings/weekends), or write to them at QD Legal.

Email: marshall@qdgroup.co.uk
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**Insurance Litigation** 6mths-3yrs
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**Commercial Litigation** 4-6yrs
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**Commercial Property** NQ-1yr
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**Application forms and our pupillage brochure can be obtained from:**

**Kathryn Webb, 4 Pump Court
Temple, London EC4Y 7AN
0171 353 2656**

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## ENFIELD MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

### LEGAL ADVISER TEMPORARY POST

Salary Scale CC 14-18

£24,438 - £27,744 + £1,272 London Weighting Allowance

Applications are invited from barristers, solicitors and others qualified for appointment as Clerk in Court. The post is cover for an existing legal adviser on maternity leave and is for the period 1st March, 1999 - 6th August 1999.

An application form together with job description and person specification is available by sending an A4 size stamped addressed envelope (stamp value £0.39p) to Ms. Dawn McGilchrist at Enfield Magistrates' Court, [illegible] Lane, Tottenham, London N17 6RT.

Completed applications must be submitted by 29th January 1999.

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# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



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The rapidly expanding City office of this leading international US firm continues to enjoy impressive growth and now seeks a charismatic partner to lead the property department. The firm already boasts an enviable client base, and is keen to capitalise on its existing key US relationships. The ideal candidate will therefore be expected to build upon these contacts and demonstrate the type of motivational and marketing skills needed to launch this new initiative. (Ref. 25057)

**LITIGATION** — **TO £200,000+**
This national firm seeks to engage a partner to develop and progress the commercial litigation department within its' well established City office. The firm's impressive corporate client base will assure an ambitious and commercially astute senior lawyer a caseload of the highest quality. This is an ideal opportunity to progress your career in a role which will allow you to shape the future direction of this dynamic department. (Ref. 25403)

**TAX** — **$US RATES**
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**INSOLVENCY** — **£PARTNER**
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**CONSTRUCTION** — **TO 60,000**
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**PROPERTY** — **FROM £56,000**
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### NORTH

**PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT** — **LEEDS**
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**CORPORATE X 2** — **MANCHESTER**
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**IT** — **MANCHESTER/LEEDS**
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**CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION** — **LEEDS**
One of Leeds' great recent success stories, this firm continues to compete with its much larger competitors. An opportunity exists for a litigator with at least 4 years' pqe and experience of or, at least, an interest in specialising in construction litigation. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. (Ref. 25468)

For further information on private practice vacancies please contact **Yvonne Smyth** or **Debbie Cochrane** on **0171 523 3838** (01923 469764 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3839.
E-mail **yvonne.smyth@zarakgroup.com**. Alternatively please write to **ZMB** Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.

For further information on Northern vacancies please contact **Andrew Russell** or **Bernadette Nolan** on 0161 238 4903 (0161 929 0909 evenings/weekends). Fax 0161 238 4910.
E-mail **andrew.russell@zarakgroup.com**. Alternatively write to **ZMB North**, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LE.

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HAMPSHIRE MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

## LEGAL ADVISER

(Salary range £24,438 - £27,744 p.a.
plus £2,000 p.a. professional qualification supplement)

Internal promotion to management has created an opportunity for a Legal Adviser to join the team at North East and North West Hampshire Magistrates' Courts.

The candidate appointed will be based initially at the Aldershot Magistrates' Court, but will be expected to act as Legal Adviser at other courthouses in Alton, Andover and Basingstoke.

We are looking for a bright, hardworking and ambitious person, preferably able to act as *Legal Adviser in all types of Court. You must be either legally* qualified as a Solicitor or Barrister and show commitment to the Magisterial Service and to its development.

This position may suit a newly qualified Solicitor or Barrister who would be appointed initially in a trainee capacity, but could progress quickly to a Legal Adviser position.

We are offering the opportunity to further your career in a progressive environment where the emphasis is on self development.

For an informal discussion contact, Miss Debbie Naughton, Head of Legal Services, on (01252) 366012, Mr Richard Barker, Legal Team Manager, on (01252) 366037, or Mr Adrien Montador, Legal Team Manager, on (01252) 366014.

Closing date for the return of applications: 29 January 1999. Interviews are to be held at Aldershot Magistrates' Court on 10 February 1999.

**For an application form and information package, please telephone Miss Laurie Croad on 01705-492227**

Hampshire Magistrates' Courts Committee
The Court House, Elmleigh Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AL



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## TENANCY VACANCY

There is a vacancy for an outstanding civil practitioner (silk or junior over 7 years call) to join leading commercial and international law chambers in the Temple.

The successful applicant will be looking for a personal clerking service, colleagues of high quality and a friendly, not a "factory", environment. A solicitor advocate move to the Bar would be welcome.

Enquiries should be made to Box Number 4334 and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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We are seeking someone with 2-4 years post qualification experience and excellent inter-personal skills. General non-contentious commercial and intellectual property work would be a useful background.

**Salary: Circa £35,000 plus benefits package**

*For further information, please write to* **Mrs J. Brewer, Personnel Manager, British Olympic Association, 1 Wandsworth Plain London SW18 1EH.**
**Fax No. 0181 871 9104.**

*Applicants will be asked to submit a CV, together with the names and addresses of two referees.*

**Closing date for applications: Monday 18th January 1999**

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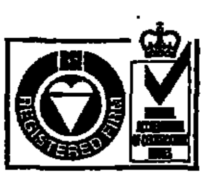
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ENFIELD MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

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Applications are invited from persons qualified as solicitors or barristers, or from persons who have successfully completed the Legal Practice Course and are seeking a Training Contract, for the above position.

This challenging and interesting post will interest anyone who wishes to pursue a career in the magisterial service, who enjoys working under pressure in court and who is able to demonstrate patience, tact and diplomacy when dealing with court users.

The position is offered on a two year fixed term contract. For further details and an application form, please send an A4 size stamped addressed envelope (stamp value £0.39p) to Ms. Dawn McGilchrist at Enfield Magistrates' Court, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, London, N17 6RT.

Completed applications must be submitted by 29th January 1999.

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**36 Bedford Row**

**The Chambers of James Hunt QC**
is pleased to welcome

**Nicholas Browne QC**
formerly of 1 Serjeants' Inn, London

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who will continue to practice from Paradise Square Chambers, Sheffield

**Benjamin Gumpert** (called 1987)
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Interviews will take place in February 1999.

*The sole criterion for selection is suitability for the post, regardless of colour, race, religion, sex, martial status or disablement.*

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"Mirror Group"

**EDITORIAL LAWYER – SOLICITOR/BARRISTER BELFAST**

A vacancy has arisen for an Editorial Lawyer in the Legal department of **Mirror Group plc**.

The department oversees the legal work for the Group's newspapers but the successful applicant will be responsible for the Group's titles in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The successful applicant must have 2-4 years' experience and ideally a minimum of 2 years within media related law (preferably libel). Qualified in either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland would be ideal. However, applicants qualified in the United Kingdom will be considered.

The position involves working in Belfast although there will be regular travel to Dublin.

We offer an excellent salary and a benefits package including pension and private health insurance.

**Please apply to the Employment Monitoring Officer on 01232 680000.**

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Our client is a leading supplier in processing and packaging systems for liquid food. With about 18'000 employees, it has customers for its systems in more than 170 countries. For its headquarters based in the French speaking part of Switzerland, it is looking for a

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**You will actively contribute to strengthen our business**

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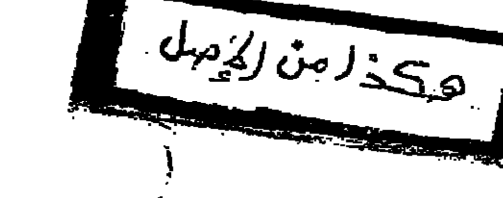
**Yourself:**
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The opportunity to join a world class international company. The chance to work in an environment with little hierarchy where your initiatives and teamwork approach will be highly appreciated. A very wide range of responsibilities as well as contacts at all levels in the group. A daily schedule which is not for those who like routine. The chance to travel in Europe and throughout the world. An attractive and competitive salary and benefits package reflecting the importance of this function.

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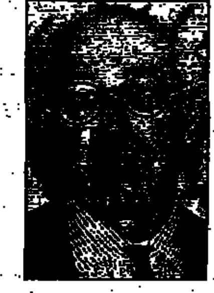
# LAW

As the law lords prepare to return to the Pinochet case, two QCs examine the issues raised by Lord Hoffmann's actions



Lord Hoffmann and Justice: "Bias — partiality — must connote something more than preconceptions or prejudices," writes Sir Louis Blom-Cooper

# Bias, prejudice and the Pinochet case



## The judiciary's approach to bias by decision-makers poses disturbing questions, says Sir Louis Blom-Cooper

Not for years has an issue so dominated talk in the Temple and divided the talkers so deeply as the rights and wrongs of the Pinochet affair. But the central issue of whether heads of state are immune for acts of state considered by the international community to be heinous crimes is not up for debate here.

That will be for the House of Lords appellate committee at the rehearing of the case next Monday. The hearing follows the setting-aside of the original ruling by three to two denying General Pinochet any immunity.

In the meantime, there are disturbing features about the procedure for disclosure by judges of potential conflicts of interest and the law's approach to what is — often glibly — described as bias on the part of decision-makers. Normally in litigation, a party to a dispute may perceive a disadvantage to itself in the judge (or judges) assigned to the case. This occurs mostly at the trial stage; rarely does it arise on appeal because appeal court judges are not the primary fact-finders. The party perceptibly prejudiced will apply to the trial judge to stand down and be replaced if the case of bias is made good.

Often an appointed judge will initiate disclosure of a possible conflict of interest and test the parties' reactions. Often the interest is not such as to rouse perturbation: the parties readily acknowledge that it will not affect the judge's judicial approach to the case and do not seek his or her removal.

Occasionally, though, the judge will remove himself. Mr Justice Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court once stood down in a case involving the validity of the musical output over the address systems of the public buses in Washington DC. So disturbing did the Associate Justice find the imposed music that he felt he could not remain unaffected in the courtroom by his personal distaste for the transport company's activities. Had Lord Hoffmann perceived himself to be similarly placed, he would have disqualified himself or, having disclosed his association with Amnesty International, asked if the parties objected to his sitting in judgment.

> The objectors would have been Pinochet supporters

The objectors, if any, would have been the Pinochet supporters. If they knew of Lord Hoffmann's connection at the time of Amnesty's intervention, they might still have thought it wise to forgo any objection. After all, they had the judgment of Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, and his two colleagues in their favour and may have been confident of keeping their winnings.

But what about the party that might conceivably gain some advantage from having a friend on the bench? When Amnesty International applied to intervene in the proceedings before the law lords, presumably it was then (or soon after) aware that Lord Hoffmann was to sit. Whatever advantage it might thereby gain, were not its lawyers obliged to disclose their client's link with Lord Hoffmann? I think so; and I speak as a founder member of Amnesty in 1961. Maybe the law lords think so, too. Certainly such disclosure would have avoided the bias issue clouding the proceedings. It may be that Amnesty and its lawyers thought there was no issue of bias. After all, it might be assumed (rightly, one hopes) that all our most senior judges would privately subscribe to the aims of Amnesty International.

Lord Hoffmann was only more transparently overt about his support than his brother judges. Therein lies the rub. Are we not all confusing preconceptions with bias, only the latter evoking any sense of judicial impropriety?

We are all born with predisposition. The process of education and socialisation creates attitudes that affect each one of us in judging situations, attitudes that precede reasoning in particular instances and which, by definition, are prejudices. Without acquired preconceptions, life could not go on. Were these prejudgments, or habits, absent and the individual obliged to treat every event as a precedent presenting wholly novel problems, he or she would go mad.

Bias — in other words, partiality — must connote something more than preconceptions (or prejudices). To be biased is deliberately to take on an attitude that is in a different dimension to the essential characteristic of the sensate human being. But preconceptions may be perceived, rightly or wrongly by the reasonable onlooker, as indicating bias.

Originally, of course, disclosure by judges in private litigation was confined to their pecuniary interests. It is easier to identify a relative financial interest than it is to discern a pertinent political or social attitude.

A civilised society should assume that its senior judges will all have the aptitude and attitude, when sitting in judgment on fellow human beings, of recognising their preconceptions and applying the law as they understand it, "without fear or favour".

By that criteria, Lord Hoffmann, by his formal link with Amnesty International, had displayed publicly his preconceptions in the area of human rights and civil liberties, but not in the context of the instant litigation.

● *Sir Louis Blom-Cooper is the co-author, with Professor Gavin Drewry, of* Final Appeal: a Study of the House of Lords in its Judicial Capacity *(Clarendon Press).*

# Should a judge have outside interests?

Two weeks ago, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, commented that it was "in the highest degree unfortunate" that the law lords had to reopen the 3-2 decision that General Pinochet was not entitled to immunity from extradition to Spain. There was the appearance of bias by Lord Hoffmann, one of the law lords in the majority, who had failed to declare his links with Amnesty International, a party to the appeal. The Lord Chancellor suggested that there was no point in "crying over spilt milk" but that it was necessary to "put procedures in place to ensure that this does not happen again".

The law lords should recognise the need for such procedures. After all, as Lord Hoffmann himself observed in another judgment in December, there are a number of "cases in which one feels that a slight change in the composition of the Appellate Committee would have set the law on a different course". The new procedures should be based on four main principles.

The first is that judges should not be required to avoid outside interests. It is highly desirable that our judges play a part in communal activities, displaying (and encouraging other lawyers to display) a sense of civic responsibility by commitment to good causes. As the great American judge Benjamin Cardozo emphasised: "The great tides and currents which engulf the rest of men do not turn aside in their course and pass the judges by."

**David Pannick QC**

Today's law lords should not be required to follow the example of one of their predecessors — as reported by Shimon Shetreet in *Judges on Trial* (1976) — who was so concerned about avoiding any hint of partiality that "since his appointment as a High Court judge he had never cast a vote in a general election". The quality of the bench, and of public life in general, would be severely diminished were it to become a condition of appointment that judges should agree to monastic exclusion from commitment to any controversial cause.

The second principle is that the personal interests of the judge should be declared. To enable the parties to decide whether to object to a particular judge hearing the case, to reduce the risk of allegations of bias and to encourage judges to recognise the need to keep an open mind, transparency is necessary in relation to any factor which links the judge to any party or witness or issue in the case.

The third principle is that the general interests and attitudes of the judge do not make it inappropriate for that judge to hear the case unless he or she is incapable of deciding the case fairly and objectively. Prior beliefs and opinions do not disqualify a judge who is able and willing to consider the case with an open mind.

An extreme example of this principle in action was the conviction of Adolf Eichmann by the Israeli District Court of war crimes and crimes against the Jewish people. The Supreme Court rejected his argument on appeal in 1962 that the reactions of any Jewish judge to the Holocaust meant that the court was "incapable of giving the appellant an objective trial". The Supreme Court agreed with the District Court that "once this case has been brought before us, it becomes our duty to control even these emotions when we sit in judgment". That is what being a judge demands.

The fourth principle is that, however confident the judge may be of an ability to decide the case fairly and objectively, a specific judicial link with the parties may be so close that the appearance of bias makes the involvement of that judge inappropriate in the particular case.

A decision of Lord Chancellor Cottenham was quashed by the House of Lords in 1852 because he was a shareholder in a company that was a party to the action. In Texas in 1925, the entire membership of the state Supreme Court excused itself from hearing a case involving an organisation known as Woodmen of the World. All the judges were members, and so the Governor appointed a special court of three women (no doubt in the confident expectation that such an organisation would not admit women into membership). In 1994 the Supreme Court of Arkansas held that a judge should not have authorised the release of her boyfriend from custody.

As Lord Irvine of Lairg pointed out, the unfortunate experience of the Pinochet case makes it necessary to improve judicial procedures. But the concept of bias raises complex questions about the nature of adjudication. We must be careful not to neuter our judges by deterring them from involvement in communal activities. We should recognise that links with the parties raise greater concerns about the appearance of bias than prior expressions of judicial opinion. And we should accept that impartiality means an open mind, not a mind which has given no prior thought to the issues. As the American judge Jerome Frank said, if we define "bias" to mean "the total absence of preconceptions in the mind of the judge, then no one has ever had a fair trial and no one ever will".

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

## Legal DIARY

An early day motion by the solicitor-MP Andrew Dismore calling for the scrapping of QCs is proving popular among Labour backbenchers. So far the motion, which argues that no Bill to modernise justice would be complete unless it put an end to the "expensive and anachronistic" silk system, has received 82 signatures since it was tabled just before Christmas.

☐ NEW YEAR, new image. Sir Richard Scott, head of the High Court Chancery division, calls in the Inner Temple yearbook for an end to wigs which — he says — have "become positively damaging to the image of the civil justice system." And Geraldine Clark, a barrister changing chambers to 4/5 Gray's Inn Square, has put out a notice more like an invitation to a fashion shoot, showing herself swinging along, trouser suit blowing in the wind.

☐ GEOFF HOON must be suffering from a sense of déjà vu. For the second time in six months, the deputy to the Lord Chancellor has been poised for promotion to Paymaster General, only to have the chance snatched away at the last minute. When Hoon was last tipped to replace Geoffrey Robinson at the Treasury, Gordon Brown persuaded Blair to keep Robinson. This time Robinson's resignation put the promotion back on the agenda. But the post went to Dawn Primarolo amid reports that Lord Irvine of Lairg wanted to keep Hoon to steer through his legal aid reforms.

☐ CONDITIONAL FEE work is taking off. New Court Chambers will hold a seminar at Middle Temple Hall on Thursday from 6.30pm on all aspects — insurance, risk assessment and case studies (details: 0171-583 5123) — and on February 1 a "roadshow" takes place at the Law Society sponsored by Medical Litigation on the growing role of insurers in medical "no win, no fee" claims (details: Geoffrey Hall 01494-792 621).

☐ CHAMBERS, the Radio 4 legal comedy by Inns of Court School of law lecturer Clive Coleman, is recording a new series at Broadcasting House on February 21. Tickets from 0171-765 4137 or e-mail *radio.ticket.unit@bbc.co.uk*

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# Litigation: will it be a free-for-all?

## Compensation culture rules in America but not here — at least not yet, says Gary Slapper

Trends, films and food — whatever happens in America inevitably reaches our shores, even in the legal system. Yet although press reports show a rise in high-profile compensation claims, we have not yet fallen prey to the tricky and dangerous kind of litigation that has engulfed America, where even teachers applying sunscreen to their pupils have been sued by parents.

The evidence suggests that we are holding fast against this style of litigation: we have been bringing fewer legal actions each year. Cases such as those of Luke Ratcliff and Henry White, though from quite different walks of life, have both featured recently in what some observers have seen as a developing pattern of judicial decisions to steer us away from becoming a compensation-obsessed culture by blocking paths to the courts.

In 1994, Luke Ratcliff was a 19-year-old student at Harper Adams Agricultural College in Newport, Shropshire. One night he went out drinking with friends and, after about four pints, climbed over a college wall and dived into a swimming pool at 2.30am, hitting his head on the bottom. Serious head injuries left him in a wheelchair.

Earlier this month the Court of Appeal ruled that he was to blame for his injuries and could not expect compensation from the college for not having taken greater steps to prevent him falling into the pool. Lord Justice Stewart-Smith said that Mr Ratcliff was aware of the risk and willingly accepted it.

In the same week as the Court of Appeal's decision, the House of Lords gave its judgment in the case of police officers who were suing over the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in 1989 in which 96 people were killed and another 700 injured.

The Lords ruled that Henry White, and other police officers who suffered psychiatric injury as a result of being in the aftermath, were not entitled to recover damages against the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, who had admitted negligence by his force.

> 'What is one man's frivolous litigation is another's test case'

The police officers argued, however, that as victims of an admitted tort, they were owed compensation.

Rejecting their arguments, Lord Steyn noted: "We do not live in a Utopia; we live in a practical world where the tort system imposes limits to the classes of claims that rank for consideration." This recalls the dictum of Chief Justice Cardozo, a renowned American judge who, in 1931, made the definitive statement in warning against any new law that would "open the floodgates" and inundate courts with claims. He said that law should not be framed to burden possible defendants with "liability in an indeterminate amount for an indeterminate time to an indeterminate class".

Anyone who applauded decisions such as those in the swimming pool or Hillsborough cases on the basis that they will deter a growing body of writ-happy citizens has no reason to be concerned. The *Judicial Statistics*, published by the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD), reports that 153,624 writs and originating summonses were issued in 1995 in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court — where all the main alleged wrongs against people and property are heard — a fall of 2 per cent since 1994. The LCD records a further fall: 121,446 actions were begun in the QBD in 1997, 15 per cent down on 1996.

This pattern is reflected in county court summonses. The *Judicial Statistics* for 1995 notes a decrease in the work of the county courts since 1992. The 1995 figure of 2,445,248 plaints entered continued a downward trend and was 8 per cent less than in 1994. The 1997 report notes the "steady decrease in the work of the county courts in recent years", and a further 5 per cent drop in actions to 2,208,878.

Nick Armstrong, a solicitor with Irwin Mitchell, has noted that, despite the fall in recorded actions, the insurance industry states that the number of claims made is rising.

The Medical Defence Union reports a recent rise of 30 per cent in annual payouts, but, as Dr Armstrong observes, that might reflect merely a rise in the quantum of damages per claim, rather than a rise in the number of actions.

Dr Armstrong argues that it is in the public interest for challenging and novel actions to be brought. "What is one man's frivolous litigation is another's test case," he argues, "and what is one man's litigation explosion is another's access to justice."

*Modernising Justice*, the Government's recent White Paper, says that "the legal system should be for everyone" and that it wishes to bring about "a significant increase in access to justice". If this aim is achieved, it will surely follow that society becomes more litigious.

● *Dr Slapper is director of the Open University's Law Programme.*

JAMES HORTON



Luke Ratcliff at the High Court after unsuccessfully suing his college

# A firm bond of partners

## Like a modern marriage, a merger is hard to forge, says Edward Fennell

Royal marriages and law firm mergers have much in common. They don't always work out and pre-engagement negotiations can drag on. Nonetheless, the word from well-informed sources last week was that the former big-name firms Theodore Goddard and Richards Butler, perhaps inspired by the example of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, will be announcing their engagement by the end of the month.

Peter Kavanagh, the managing director of Theodore Goddard, tried to play down the mounting excitement, saying: "It is essential that a merger of this kind has a high level of support, so we are taking a lot of time to explain to partners what it means to them as individuals as well as what it signifies for the business as a whole. At this stage I cannot give a date for any formal announcement."

"*It was love at first sight when they saw each other's turnovers*"

Mr Kavanagh is prudent to be circumspect in his comments. These talks started out as a three-way merger with Denton Hall as the third player. Back in October, Denton Hall decided to pull out due to difficulties in meshing together the various offices in Hong Kong.

All three firms used to be high in the league table of size. They have dropped down the ladder but merger negotiations have to traverse dangerous territory. James Dallas, the chairman of Denton Hall, says: "Because of the growth of international offices, merger discussions are much more complex than a decade ago. Rather than just a couple of London offices, you may be trying to match half a dozen offices worldwide and that could be very complicated."

Such proved to be the case during last year's proposed link-up between Wilde Sapte and Arthur Andersen. There were early signs that Wilde Sapte's Paris partners were not happy with the deal.

By the time negotiations were broken off, several key Wilde Sapte partners had left and Arthur Andersen had received a severe blow to its strategic plans.

Andersen admits that it has given up any thought of a large-scale merger with a law firm in London, despite the fact that it had declared this to be its strategic route forward.

One merger we can expect to see consummated later this year, however, is between Beachcroft Stanleys and Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave.

This extended engagement process has benefited from the political skills of Lord Hunt of Tanworth, the former Cabinet minister under Margaret Thatcher, who has been able to bring his formidable charm and powers of negotiation to the deal.

As a merger between a medium-sized London practice and a medium-sized regional firm, it has not had to wrestle with complex multi-office managers.

As Lord Hunt says: "A client survey revealed to us overwhelmingly that we had to go national. So we wanted to find a firm that mirrored our strength but was outside London. We were delighted when we met Wansboroughs."

Above all, though, the partners of the firms have developed into good friends during their courtship. And that, as Prince Edward points out, is pretty important for a successful marriage.

IN-HOUSE [illegible]

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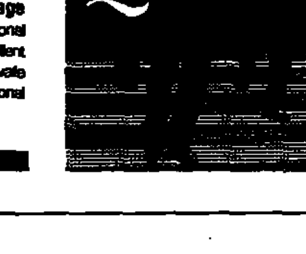
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Issues include the current state of the legal world, the future of the market, managing your career effectively, options for assistants and tips on interviewing.

The Guide will be published on 19 January 1999. To reserve your copy, please contact **Nick Shilton** or **Gavin Sharpe** at **QD Legal.**

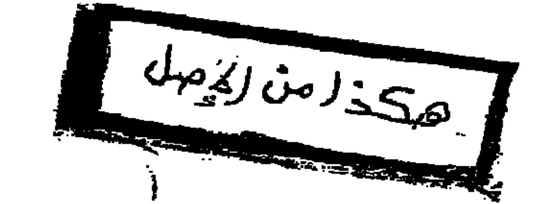
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Gilbert & Tobin is a law firm based in Sydney, Australia. We are 11 years old and widely acknowledged as the most significant new firm to emerge in Australia in recent times. In size we are just over 200 people which includes over 100 lawyers.

We are ranked at the top of the field in all our key practice areas by various industry benchmark survey reports. Our clients include blue chip Australian companies and many multinationals. Our work, particularly in communications, spans the globe.

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Applications should be in writing to Gilbert & Tobin partner, Peter Waters C/- 106 New River Head, 173 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4UR or email pwaters@gtlaw.com.au. Peter may also be contacted by mobile 0467 707 477.




LAWYERS

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**STRUCTURED PRODUCTS – IN-HOUSE** — 1-5 Years Exp.
The structured products team of the London office of an international bank is looking for a new member. The role will involve dealing with repackagings, credit derivatives, swaps, credit linked notes and other aspects of structured finance. Are you a lawyer with such experience and ready for a challenge? Refs: 7821, 7819. Contact: Tanya Aljewicz.

**CAPITAL MARKETS – IN-HOUSE** — 3-6 Years Exp.
Major international bank needs an experienced capital markets lawyer. You will be involved in varied complex structured transactions including collateralised transactions, total return swaps and credit derivatives. You will also be dealing with debt products, MTN programmes and their ongoing management. An excellent opportunity for the right person. Ref: 8152. Contact: Tanya Aljewicz.

**PRINCIPAL FINANCE & SECURITISATION – IN-HOUSE** — 1-8 Years Exp.
Opportunities with excellent prospects exist for lawyers to join principal finance/securitisation departments of certain banks or to work in the legal/transaction management groups supporting these departments. Demand is highest at the 1-8 year qualified range and previous securitisation experience is essential. Refs: 5447, 8042. Contact: Tanya Aljewicz.

**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL – IN-HOUSE** — London
International bank seeks a 6-8 year qualified solicitor for a varied role. The legal team, based in London, provides legal services to all of the group's operations in 11 jurisdictions worldwide and has a high profile and reputation within the group. Very attractive salary and benefits package. Ref: 8387. Contact: Paul Ramsacles.

**COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL SERVICES – IN-HOUSE** — London
A highly profitable Trust/Corporate Services company seeks a lawyer 1-3 years qualified for a role which involves a lot of interaction with their clientele of high net worth individuals and private companies. This company is expanding and offers excellent career opportunities, including the scope to move out of law. Ref: 8088. Contact: Paul Ramsacles.

**PRIVATE CLIENT – IN-HOUSE** — London/Overseas
Several opportunities have arisen for private client lawyers to make a move in-house to work in the Private Banking/Trust Company environment. Although you will still be providing legal/commercial advice to an external clientele the nature of the role and environment are quite different from Private Practice. Refs: 8430, 8183, 8186. Contact: Paul Ramsacles.

**MEDIA/BROADCASTING – IN-HOUSE** — London
Leading Broadcaster has a challenging position for an ambitious lawyer with previous media experience (circa 4-7 years PQE). This diverse role will include production and distribution work and will be highly commercial in focus. The successful applicant will have strong negotiation and drafting skills and enjoy working in a team culture. Ref: 7527. Contact: Richard Gawn.

**TELECOMS LAWYER – IN-HOUSE** — S.W. London
Leading Telecoms provider offering an innovative and diverse range of communication solutions are seeking an ambitious lawyer with at least two years telecoms experience. The position offers a range of good quality work within an established and professional legal department. Ref: 8057. Contact: Richard Gawn.

**IT LAWYER – IN-HOUSE** — London
International IT company with particular strengths in outsourcing and system integration services require a further lawyer to join their legal department. The successful applicant will be a strong negotiator and drafter with a commercial focus (circa 4-6 years PQE). Excellent opportunity to enhance your career with a growing company. Ref: 8583. Contact: Richard Gawn.

**PENSIONS** — £ Excellent
A well known and highly profitable City corporate firm wishes to build a department and a name in pensions. This firm is aware of the rarity of expertise in this area and is willing to PAY OVER THE ODDS to achieve its aim. An excellent opportunity to make your name and your career. Ref: 5608. Contact: Able Martin.

**CONSTRUCTION** — 1-5 Years' PQE
Top 20 City firm needs stars to join its leading 22 partner construction department. Will consider commercial lawyers wanting to move into this field. You will be working in lovely offices, dealing with the hottest issues and the best clients and earning a first rate salary. Who could ask for more? Ref: 3531. Contact: Able Martin.

**INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION** — 2-4 Years' PQE
Fluent German speaker needed to join a highly regarded 6 partner commercial litigation department. The position has a strong international focus and clients include major UK, German, Austrian and Swiss companies. The firm is established and hard working yet friendly. Ref: 2829. Contact: Able Martin.

**EUROPEAN LAWYERS** — 1-2 Years' PQE Plus
French and/or German lawyers with at least 1-2 year's corporate experience are sought by this go-ahead International team in highly profitable and dynamic City practice. Much of the European based transactins are on behalf of European corporates and IT/telecoms companies. Strong academics and a head for business a must. Travel if desired. Ref: 4330. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

**JUNIOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT** — NQ – 1 Year PQE
If you are currently with a top 20 firm and looking to downsize but retain the quality, read on. Highly respected in the employment sector, this medium sized City practice has a thriving 6 lawyer employment team handling a broad spectrum of high profile non-contentious and contentious matters. Excellent communication skills a prerequisite. Ref: 8561. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

**FAMILY** — 2-4 Years' PQE
Mid level assistant with particular experience in ancillary relief matters is sought by extremely friendly and unstuffy City practice with successful family department. The work is almost exclusively privately paid so a background in such is preferable. The applicant will be groomed for partnership. Ref: 8500. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

**DEFAMATION** — 1-3 Years' PQE
This is an outstanding opportunity to join one of the most dynamic and successful entertainment firms in London to work with a universally acknowledged star in this field. Recent work has included many headline grabbing victories. You will work in a close-knit team and be offered a high degree of responsibility and client contact. Ref: 8578. Contact: Pandora Guthrie.

**BUSINESS IMMIGRATION** — 1-5 Years' PQE
It is not every day that seriously good immigration jobs like this crop up. The firm is young, small-medium size, City – with an outstanding reputation for employment law (headed by a leading light) and also known for its excellence in immigration. You will join a team of two and and enjoy all aspects of immigration work (with emphasis on executive immigration/work permits). Ref: 7481. Contact: Pandora Guthrie.

**ENVIRONMENTAL/PLANNING** — 0-4 Years' PQE
This City firm is a leader in this field and seeks a junior solicitor to join its friendly and supportive planning and environmental team of four. Work includes advice on all areas of UK and EU environmental law (both transactional and "stand alone" work) and also on planning applications. Ref: 8494. Contact: Pandora Guthrie.




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Open.... British Interactive Broadcasting

# Senior Lawyer

**British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB) is an independent company set up to deliver digital interactive services to UK television viewers. With the backing of four companies which have the most direct and relevant experience of the technologies involved (BSkyB, BT, HSBC and Matsushita), the launch of the branded Open.... service in Spring 1999 will enable consumers to interact via their TV with services such as home shopping, home banking, information, e-mail, entertainment and education. In the next millennium, Open.... will be the face of TV. You can be part of it.**

## Central London — £ Excellent

The legal aspects of this fast moving media and service driven business requires a legal adviser of the highest calibre. The successful candidate will ideally have the following profile:

- At least five years pqe gained in practice or industry.
- Heavyweight corporate and commercial transactional experience as a team leader.
- Media experience and a particular knowledge of the relevant regulatory regime is advantageous but not essential.
- Sound commercial judgment and the ability to work accurately to tight deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, open-minded and flexible.

This position offers an excellent remuneration package, career prospects and the opportunity to play an integral role in the future of the UK's most comprehensive national interactive TV service.

Interested candidates should contact Guy Moran on 0171 269 2231 or write to him at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 405 2936, quoting reference 464740. e-mail: guymoran@michaelpage.com

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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Brockbank

# Insurance Litigator

**Brockbank Syndicate Management Ltd is an innovative Lloyd's managing agency whose syndicates write in excess of £400 million of insurance and reinsurance premium across the full range of non-life business. Brockbank is part of XL Capital Ltd which, as at 31 August 1998, has assets of $9.9 billion and shareholders' equity of $4.5 billion.**

## London — £ Excellent

An exciting opportunity has now arisen for a high calibre insurance litigator to join the company and develop their knowledge and understanding of the insurance and reinsurance business. As part of a small legal team, you will become an integral part of a leading player in the international insurance market. You will work closely with underwriters, adjusters and the claims department advising and structuring policies and new products for a number of different classes of insurance in areas as diverse as fine art, bloodstock and space. The company has a collegiate culture and this has created a team orientated environment where lawyers are encouraged to take a pro-active role in the commercial process.

Your profile:

- Insurance litigator with 3-5 years' post qualification experience.
- A self-starter who has a pro-active style and a keen interest in the insurance business.
- Outgoing and flexible personality who will enjoy the diversity of this environment.
- Reinsurance and/or US experience would be desirable, but is not necessary for the right person.

This represents a unique opportunity for an insurance litigator to enjoy a true commercial role in an organisation with exceptional growth potential.

For further information in complete confidence, please call Guy Moran or Catherine Brown on 0171 269 2231 or write to them enclosing your current CV and salary details at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5LN or fax 0171 405 2936. e-mail: guymoran@michaelpage.com

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# Asset Management Lawyer




**ABN AMRO is a major global bank with a strong international focus. With almost 65,000 employees and a global presence in 71 countries, the bank's main competitive advantage lies in belonging to an extensive worldwide network, which enables it to offer a wide range of products and services in the fields of both commercial and investment banking. With total assets of US$414 billion, ABN AMRO ranks as the 4th largest bank in Europe and the 8th largest bank in the world. The London business of the bank continues to grow and prestigious new premises are to be occupied during 1999.**

## London — £ Investment Banking Package

The London Legal Department provides general legal and secretariat services to the Asset Management Group, and now requires a lawyer to be dedicated to this business. The Asset Management Group is 80 strong and works in three main areas; management and marketing of Retail funds and management of Fixed Income Institutional and Private Client mandates. The successful candidate will work across all of these areas, carrying out a wide range of work including reviewing and negotiating investment management contracts, custody agreements and counterparty documentation such as ISDA's, ISMA's and terms of business. Day-to-day liaison with the compliance function will be required and there will be involvement in new product development. Knowledge of UK and offshore collective investment schemes is essential, whilst some knowledge of pension law would be useful.

Your profile:

- 2-4 years relevant post qualification experience.
- Currently working in an in-house asset management team or within a specialist department of a premier law firm.
- Adaptable and flexible with the tact, diplomacy and strength of character to deal with senior management and business people at all levels.
- Confident and with sufficient commercial acumen to work calmly under pressure to meet tight deadlines.

This is an outstanding opportunity to work closely with the business in one of Europe's largest investment banking organisations. The remuneration package will reflect ABN AMRO's policy of rewarding excellence. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity please contact Catherine Brown, the exclusively retained consultant on 0171 269 2484 or send your CV to her at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 405 2936. Please quote ref 465687. e-mail: catherinebrown@michaelpage.com

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# COMPANY SECRETARY

North West — **Stanley Leisure plc** — Excellent Package

Stanley Leisure is a major force in the UK leisure industry. Fully listed, with a turnover in excess of £400 million, the Group has generated substantial recent growth both organically and by acquisition. The sector offers significant future potential not only for the Group's existing businesses but also for complementary activities. As a result, the Group has a requirement to identify a high calibre individual, as Company Secretary, to contribute to the business within this challenging environment.

**THE POSITION**

- Reporting to the Board of Directors, this role will be responsible for the full range of company secretarial duties associated with a plc environment.
- Provide assistance and guidance to the Directors in their pursuit of their business objectives and play a central role in the governance of the company.
- Develop the company secretariat as a core support function adding value to the business.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Proven track record of operating as a company secretary, either as a qualified accountant, chartered secretary or with a legal qualification.
- Highly professional individual able to operate in a plc environment, demonstrating a proactive and efficient approach.
- Strong technical knowledge with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

This is an outstanding opportunity for an individual to develop their career and be part of a growing organisation.

Interested candidates should write enclosing full career details, current salary and where possible a daytime telephone number, quoting reference 2558 to Robert Berkeley, Consumer Division, Questor International, 3 Burlington Gardens, London W1X 1LE. Tel 0171 292 8300. Fax 0171 287 5457, e-mail: claire@questorint.com




QUESTOR INTERNATIONAL

**RACING:** JOCKEY CLUB RAISES STAKES IN HIGH-PROFILE CASES OF MISUSE

# Whip bans to carry more sting

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

JOCKEYS who breach the whip rules in major races will be referred automatically to Portman Square and face a minimum ten-day ban as part of a new crackdown on whip abuse announced by the Jockey Club yesterday. The move is effective from March 1.

If the deterrent fails to work, riders could lose their winning percentage of prize-money — worth up to £20,000 in a classic such as the Vodafone Derby.

The radical package of measures — which includes compulsory seminars for riders, races where the whip cannot be used and the introduction of "equine friendly" whips — follows a number of high-profile races last summer in which top riders flagrantly ignored the rules in pursuit of big-race glory.

Olivier Peslier was suspended after hitting High-Rise too many times when winning the Derby, but the worst case came in the group one International Stakes at York in August, when a thrilling three-way photo finish ended with Pat Eddery, Frankie Dettori and Kieren Fallon receiving bans totalling 15 days for misuse of the whip.

The Jockey Club action is not only aimed at curbing jockeys on the big occasion, but is the latest signal that the welfare of the horse and racing's public image is now a priority among racing's rulers.

Christopher Spence, senior steward of the Jockey Club, said: "This package of measures clearly demonstrates that we remain committed to setting new standards aimed at safeguarding the welfare of the horse and improving the quality of riding. The Jockey Club has for many years stated that the whip should be used for safety, correction and encouragement only."

The Jockey Club is adamant that racing suffers when suspensions are imposed at high-profile meetings, invariably covered by television, "and it does appear that sometimes jockeys ignore the whip instruction when riding in an important race".

The major races which will warrant an automatic referral to the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee if riders breach the whip rules include the classics and group one races, as well as all grade one races over jumps, such as the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle.

Flat races with a total prize fund of £140,000 and jump races with £80,000 prize-money will also be covered, along with a host of other well-known races including the Tote International Handicap (Ascot), the Tote Ebor (York), the Murphy's Gold Cup and Tripleprint Gold Cup (both Cheltenham), the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and Tote Gold Trophy (both Newbury), the Greenalls Gold Cup (Haydock), the Martell Grand National (Aintree) and the Whitbread Gold Cup (Sandown).

If a jockey is found to be in breach of whip rules in those races by local racecourse stewards, he will be referred to the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee and if they concur a minimum suspension of ten days will be imposed.

"The [disciplinary] committee considered removing a jockey's winning percentage if found in breach in a major race, but they have discounted it for the time being. However, it will be kept in reserve if longer suspensions are not seen to be a sufficient deterrent," the Jockey Club statement added.

Education is seen as the long-term method of dealing with whip abuse and "continuation training" will be introduced for 7lb claimers at the British Racing School. The Jockey Club is also planning a series of races for apprentices "in which the whip may only be carried and not used". Compulsory seminars for all jockeys will start next year.

After talks with the Animal Health Trust, the Jockey Club intends to establish a benchmark for "equine friendly" whips. Work on the project is already underway and the RSPCA will be among those helping to oversee trials.

The disciplinary committee even considered restricting jockeys to using the whip in the less forceful "backhand" position only, but after taking advice from leading riders and the British Racing School "this was discounted for the time being".

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The finish of the International Stakes at York which cost Fallon, left, Dettori, centre, and Eddery a total of 15 days in whip bans.

## Leicester off as frost bites

THE Leicester fixture scheduled for today has been abandoned because of frost and waterlogging, and Newcastle's meeting hinges on a 7.45am inspection.

David McAllister, clerk of the course at Newcastle, said: "There are still traces of frost and snow on the track but we have had a good day with plenty of sunshine. However, the temperature is nearly at freezing again. If the forecast [gradually becoming warmer] is right we might be in with a chance."

Sedgefield will inspect today to determine prospects for tomorrow. Clerk of the course, John Cleverly, said: "Prospects are only 50-50."

## RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE PRICES

AFTER the cavalry charge of last week's Ladbroke Hurdle, the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday has a much more attractive shape from a betting point of view, with just 12 good-class chasers rema... yesterday's five-day entry stage.

...Nicky Henderson-trained... Real is favourite on the strength of a comfortable defeat of Call... this race last year, over course and distance last mon... with his 4lb penalty he is ... out of ... handicap, and ... the line-up he is unlike... would when succes...

...and placed on all oth... Coin in the Mildm... run this season ... his owner does not consider th... "He has won first time out every season," Adam said yesterday... race has been the aim for four m... and he won't fall through lack of fitness... Powell has made this horse and will ride again on Saturday. A winner on both his previous visits to Ascot, ...ONNAIE FORTE is an excellent each-way bet at 9-1 with Hills... Ladbrokes.

## LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.00 Mystagogue. 1.30 Vegas. 2.00 Facile Tigre. 2.30 Love Diamonds. 3.00 Pacific Alliance. 3.30 Mazeed.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST — SIS

### 1.00 YARMOUTH CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,558: 1m 5f) (8 runners)

101 (7) 00-0 FLYING EAGLE 3 (F,G,S) R Simpson 8-9-10 .. S Drowne [redacted]
102 (5) 61-0 PRINCE DANZIG 10 (CD) D M Smith 8-9-10 .. J Spencer (3) 64
103 (2) 640- QUIET ARCH 36 (C,F) J O'Shea 6-9-10 .......... J Quinn 79
104 (3) 05-0 SAND CAY 3 (C) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-6 ... S Whitworth 69
105 (8) 0-13 MYSTAGOGUE 5 (C) R Hannon 4-9-1 ..... R Smith (7) 82
106 (1) 00- WINGED GREYBIRD 78 Miss A N-Smith 5-8-11 J Lowe –
107 (6) 065- MADAME CHINNERY 31 (B,G) C Weedon 5-8-9 .J Tate 72
108 (4) 0- SPRING BLADE 48 L A Dace 7-8-8 ..... R Thomas (7) –

7-4 Mystagogue, 5-2 Prince Danzig, 7-2 Quiet Arch, 7-1 Flying Eagle, Sand Cay, 25-1 Madame Chinnery, 50-1 Winged Greybird, Spring Blade.

### 1.30 VENTNOR SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,855: 7f) (12)

201 (12) 556- CALLITWHATYOUWANT 13 (F) J R Poulton 8-11 G Faulkner (3) 51
202 (7) 3-60 GLASTONBURY 5 (CD) P Howling 8-11 ...... T Sprake 87
203 (4) 430- SATIN SLIPPER 147 (S) K Ivory 8-11 ..... N Pollard (3) 68
204 (2) 540- ABSTRACT 113 J Wainwright 8-6 ..... J McAuley (7) 50
205 (3) 10-0 ANNIE APPLE 7 (D,F) R Hannon 8-6 ..... Dane O'Neill 44
206 (10) 0-40 ITSALLHAPPENING 3 (B) T Naughton 8-6 ...... J Quinn 47
207 (6) 002- MISPRINT 14 E Wheeler 8-6 .......... S Carson (7) 62
208 (1) 46-4 NICHOLAS MISTRESS 8 P Evans 8-6 ..... C Cogan (7) 57
209 (9) 6-44 RIDDLE 3 (B) P Evans 8-6 ........... J P Spencer (3) [redacted]
210 (11) 00-0 TARA 3 (B) K Ivory 8-6 ............. C Catlin (7) 27
211 (5) 6 VEGAS 17 J S Moore 8-6 ............. D Sweeney 38
212 (8) 044- ZOLA POWER 14 (B) B Pearce 8-6 .......... P Doe (5) 62

3-1 Glastonbury, 4-1 Annie Apple, Nicholas Mistress, 7-1 Riddle, 8-1 Misprint, 12-1 Satin Slipper, 16-1 Callitwhatyouwant, Abstract, 25-1 others.

### 2.00 BOOK A MEAL FOR VALENTINES DAY HANDICAP
(£6,098: 5f) (8)

301 (2) 215- CLASSY CLEO 52 (CD,F,G,S) P Evans 4-10-0 C Cogan (7) 94
302 (4) 305- STATE OF CAUTION 24 (V) K Burke 6-9-13 ... D Sweeney 92
303 (3) 60-1 SOAKED 10 (CD,F,G) D Chapman 6-9-5 ..... A Culhane 97
304 (7) 04-4 MANGUS 10 (D,F) K C-Brown 5-8-11 ......... R Cochrane 92
305 (1) 13-2 TEAR WHITE 10 (CD,G) T Mills 5-8-3 .... Lisa Hackett (7) 96
306 (8) 01-0 FACILE TIGRE 11 (D,F,S) S Dow 4-7-13 ...... P Doe (5) [redacted]
307 (6) 06-6 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 10 (B,CD) K Ivory 6-7-10 .C Catlin (7) 89
308 (5) 400- LAST CHANCE 157 (F) J Wainwright 5-7-10 .J McAuley (7) 81

11-4 Soaked, 3-1 Tear White, 4-1 Classy Cleo, Mangus, 8-1 Facile Tigre, 10-1 State Of Caution, 20-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, 33-1 Last Chance.

### 2.30 SHANKLIN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,710: 1m) (6)

401 (1) 401- JACK GOODMAN 13 (C,F) J S Moore 9-7 . Dane O'Neill 55
402 (5) 025- PRINCE CONSORT 22 (BF) S C Williams 9-0 .. W Ryan [redacted]
403 (2) 14-2 PADDOCK INSPECTION 11 (B,C) Mrs Stubbs 8-13 ... N Day 63
404 (3) 001- QUESTUARY 14 (CD) M Channon 8-13 ... Candy Morris 52
405 (4) 13-2 LOVE DIAMONDS 6 (CD) M Johnston 8-12 . D McKeown 55
406 (6) 63-3 MALCHIK 7 (D,S) P Howling 7-12 ............. J Quinn 68

2-1 Love Diamonds, 4-1 Jack Goodman, Paddock Inspection, 5-1 others.

### 3.00 RACECOURSE & RAILWAY MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,631: 1m) (11)

501 (5) 56-4 MAWKAB 5 (B) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-10 . P Fredericks (7) 45
502 (10) 03- DUDALMUTEENA 84 V Soane 4-9-10 ...... R Cochrane 49
503 (9) 06-0 SILVERSMITH 11 S Dow 4-9-10 ............ P Doe (5) 63
504 (6) 0/ ALARMING MOTOWN 445 M Channon 4-9-5 S Drowne –
505 (2) 645- QUEEN'S HAT 14 J Bridger 4-9-5 ........ G Bardwell [redacted]
506 (7) 005- BRAVACCIO 84 P S McEntee 3-8-4 ............ J Tate 40
507 (1) KENTUCKY BULLET M Johnston 3-8-4 ....... J Fanning –
508 (11) 50- PACIFIC ALLIANCE 112 R Armstrong 3-8-4 ... G Carter 56
509 (8) TAMASHAN G Chung 3-8-4 .................. J Quinn –
510 (3) 563- WOOLLY WINSOME 32 B Smart 3-8-4 ...... R Perham 60
511 (4) 0- GRAND CORONET 73 T Mills 3-7-13 ......... L Carter 48

7-2 Kentucky Bullet, 4-1 Bravaccio, 6-1 Dudalmuteena, 7-1 others.

### 3.30 NEWPORT APPRENTICE HANDICAP [SHOWCASE HANDICAP]
(£2,068: 1m 2f) (9)

601 (4) 005- PHILISTAR 21J (CD,F,G) K Burke 6-10-0 . P Dobbs (3) [redacted]
602 (8) 35-5 MAZEED 8 (V,CD,F,S) P Evans 6-10-0 ..... C Cogan (3) 64
603 (7) 003- GENIUS 13 (C) S Dow 4-9-10 .................. P Doe 71
604 (1) 040- KEY TO THE CITY 45J (B,S) P Eccles 5-9-4 .. S Carson (3) –
605 (3) 51-1 KINGS ARROW 11 (CD) P Howling 4-9-2 . R FitzPatrick 69
606 (5) 432- HAWKSBILL HENRY 48 (CD) Mrs A Perrett 5-9-1 . S Copp 78
607 (9) 301- DANCING-ALONE 42 D Morris 7-8-10 .. P M Quinn (5) 60
608 (2) 200- FAMOUS 24 (D,F,G,S) J Bridger 6-8-6 ... R Brisland (3) 79
609 (6) 40-2 HOMESTEAD 7 (F,G) R Hannon 5-7-12 .. L Newman (7) 75

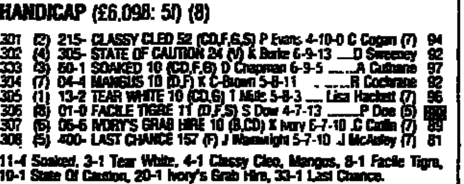
5-2 Kings Arrow, 4-1 Hawksbill Henry, 11-2 Genius, 13-2 Dancing-Alone, 7-1 Homestead, 8-1 Philistar, 10-1 Key To The City, Famous, 12-1 Mazeed.

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs A Perrett, 5 winners from 23 runners, 21.7%. R Armstrong, 14 from 73, 19.2%. V Soane, 7 from 39, 17.9%. P Eccles, 3 from 17, 17.6%. D Chapman, 17 from 98, 17.3%. M Johnston, 44 from 260, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: S Copp, 3 winners from 5 rides, 60.0%. P Dobbs, 7 from 31, 22.6%. D McKeown, 26 from 146, 17.8%. N Pollard, 9 from 52, 17.3%. W Ryan, 41 from 248, 16.5%. R Cochrane, 52 from 325, 16.0%.

□ **Adrian Maguire had no luck at Fakenham yesterday when, after losing a race on Royal Castle in the stewards' room, he sprained his wrist when falling from King On The Run and was forced to give up his last two rides, one of which, Supreme Day, was successful.**



## RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

### Fontwell Park

**Going:** soft

**1.00** (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Homme de Fer** (Mr R Fomstal, 6-4 fav); 2, Kerry's Oats (33-1); 3, Caldamus (20-1). 15 ran. 5l, 9l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £8.70, £5.20. DF: £52.60. CSF: £66.43.

**1.30** (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Drum Battle** (R Dunwoody, 2-1); 2, Royal Tommy (20-1); 3, Bright Flame (5-1). Strong Tel 6-4 fav. 8 ran. Dist, 11l. W Turner. Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £4.50, £1.20. DF: £22.70. CSF: £31.66.

**2.00** (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **Skipcarl** (J Culloty, 6-4 fav, **Timekeeper's top rating**); 2, Flamengo (11-2); 3, Below The Salt (50-1). 12 ran. 13l, nk. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £2.00, £10.70. DF: £6.40. CSF: £7.83.

**2.30** (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Dancetillyoudrop** (T J Murphy, 3-1); 2, Nazzaro (11-4 fav). 6 ran. Dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.80; £2.70, £1.40. DF: £5.70. CSF: £10.10.

**3.00** (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Nordansk** (J Goldstein, 12-1); 2, Dancing Paddy (16-1); 3, Shahrur (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 7l, 4l. M Madgwick. Tote: £10.50; £2.10, £4.10, £1.10. DF: £26.90. CSF: £157.68. Tricast: £499.58.

**3.30** (2m 3f ch) 1, **Kybo's Revenge** (P Hide, 20-1); 2, Chippewa (13-8 fav); 3, Smart Guy (100-1). 9 ran. 6l, 2l. R Rowe. Tote: £17.10; £3.40, £1.10, £14.00. DF: £25.50. CSF: £49.94.

**4.00** (2m 2f 110yd flat) 1, **Anne Karnail** (G Supple, 5-1); 2, The Hill Has Moved (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Pertemps Cindrella (10-1). Two Paddies (5th) 7-2 jt-fav. 18 ran. 11l, 17l. M Pipe. Tote: £7.60; £2.70, £2.00, £3.40. DF: £11.50. CSF: £23.14.

**Placepot:** £52.70. **Quadpot:** £7.60.

### Fakenham

**Going:** good to soft, good in places

**1.10** (2m hdle) 1, **Balladur** (B Fenton, 12-1); 2, Memsahib Ofesteem (16-1); 3, Our Weathercock (11-1). Prince of India 4-1 fav. 14 ran. 8l, 1l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £10.40; £2.20, £4.60, £2.40. DF: £88.50. CSF: £173.82. Tricast: £1,980.57.

**1.40** (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Country Star** (G Bradley, 7-2); 2, Northern Saddler (11-2); 3, The Moor (11-4 fav). 7 ran. 4l, dist. E James. Tote: £4.30; £2.90, £3.20. DF: £12.10. CSF: £19.42.

**2.10** (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Errigal** (R Johnson, 7-2); 2, Royal Castle (5-1); 3, Dragon Lord (6-4 fav). 8 ran. Hd, 3l. D Nicholson. Tote: £5.30; £1.60, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £11.80. CSF: £21.66. Royal Castle finished first but after a stewards' inquiry was placed second.

**2.40** (3m 110yd ch) 1, **Danger Flynn** (W Marston, 7-1); 2, Royal Scimitar (25-1); 3, Bubbles Galore (66-1). King On The Run 5-6 fav. 7 ran. 29l, dist. Mrs P Sly. Tote: £8.40; £3.70, £3.60. DF: £21.10. CSF: £89.82.

**3.10** (2m 5½f ch) 1, **Tuckers Town** (B Fenton, 9-2); 2, Take Cover (9-1); 3, Saksong (5-1). Rossell Island (6th) 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. R Rowe. Tote: £5.70; £2.80, £2.60, £2.70. DF: £35.10. CSF: £40.34. Tricast: £192.42.

**3.40** (2m 7f 110yd hdle) 1, **Supreme Day** (J R Kavanagh, 10-11 fav); 2, Lucky Master (5-1); 3, Missed Call (5-1). 10 ran. NR: Roberto Riva. 2½l, dist. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £9.00. CSF: £6.24.

**Placepot:** £1,362.40. **Quadpot:** £35.60.

#### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SCOTMAIL LAD (1.10 Newcastle)

Scotmail Lad galloped his rivals into submission on heavy ground at Ayr last time and can follow up today.

Nb: Committed Schedule (1.40 Newcastle)

Thunderer was in fine form yesterday, selecting Westside Flyer (10-1) at Southwell and tipping Tuckers Town (9-2) and Country Star (7-2) at Fakenham.

### Southwell

**Going:** standard

**12.20** (1m) 1, **Ring The Chief** (G Hannon, 8-1); 2, Forest Robin (12-1); 3, Mezzoramio (12-1). High Noon (4th) 4-1 jt-fav. 14 ran. NR: Far-So-La, Linguistic Dancer. ½l, 4l. M Usher. Tote: £9.90; £2.00, £3.60, £2.70. DF: £92.00. CSF: £96.09. Tricast: £1,101.08.

**12.50** (1m) 1, **Gain Line** (G Hannon, 9-1); 2, Tom (4-1); 3, Moonlight Flit (10-1). Titsai 3-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Explosive Power. 4l, 1¼l. K Bell. Tote: £15.10; £2.40, £1.80, £3.00. DF: £35.00. CSF: £40.98. Tricast: £356.56.

**1.20** (7f) 1, **Theatre Magic** (N Pollard, 5-2 fav); 2, Godmersham Park (7-1); 3, Arc (10-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. D Shaw. Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £3.40, £3.50. DF: £15.20. CSF: £20.21. Tricast: £148.82.

**1.50** (6f) 1, **Westside Flyer** (D Sweeney, 10-1); 2, Keen Hands (4-1); 3, Just For You Jane (10-1). Amber Jasmine 5-2 fav. 14 ran. Sh hd, nk. A Kelleway. Tote: £10.50; £2.20, £1.60, £3.40. DF: £20.70. CSF: £47.14.

**2.20** (1m 4f) 1, **A Day On The Dub** (R Fitzpatrick, 7-2); 2, Le Sauvage (10-1); 3, Blue Hopper (9-4 jt-fav). Belisario 9-4 jt-fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. D Eddy. Tote: £6.50; £3.40, £2.30, £1.30. DF: £22.40. CSF: £37.64.

**2.50** (1m 3f) 1, **China Castle** (M Tebbutt, 3-1 fav); 2, King Priam (20-1); 3, Count de Money (11-2); 4, Evezio Rufo (25-1). 16 ran. Nk, 3l. P Haslam. Tote: £3.90; £2.50, £5.30, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £68.00. Trifecta: £1,730.60. CSF: £71.28. Tricast: £321.55.

**3.20** (1m) 1, **Alana's Cavalier** (P M Quinn, 10-1); 2, Golden Syrup (10-11 fav); 3, Burtons Folly (100-30). 6 ran. ½l, 6l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £15.10; £6.30, £1.10. DF: £4.90. CSF: £18.50.

**3.50** (7f) 1, **Mutabari** (J Quinn, 8-1); 2, Kosevo (9-1); 3, Ertlon (16-1). Live Project 2-1 fav. 11 ran. ½l, 4l. Mrs S Lamyman. Tote: £9.80; £4.00, £2.30, £3.70. DF: £25.30. CSF: £77.43. Tricast: £1,072.57.

**Jackpot:** not won (pool of £16,047.57 carried forward to Lingfield Park today). **Placepot:** £742.50. **Quadpot:** £27.70.

## [redacted]

THUNDERER

1.10 SCOTMAIL LAD (nap). 1.40 Ivy House. 2.10 Storm Call. 2.40 Kings Measure. 3.10 Master Nova. 3.40 Roman Uproar.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.40 KING'S MEASURE

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES (INSPECTION 7.45AM) — SIS

### 1.10 SV RUTTER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,840: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 -31341 SCOTMAIL LAD 17 (D,G,S) (G Brown & B Watson) G M Moore 5-12-4 . N Hannity (7) 78
2 6-3102 VALIGAN 14 (S) (R Thorburn) L Lungo 8-11-12 ........ W Dowling (5) 70
3 25 AZTEC FLYER 49 (BF) (B Meredith) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6 ......... G Lee 89
4 6/00 BALLYMANA BOY 29 (K Flood) F Murphy 8-11-6 .......... S Durack –
5 06-203 GLOBAL LEGEND 29 (I Emmerson) I Emmerson 9-11-6 ......... J Supple 77
6 60 HIGH PYRENEES 29 (J Stephenson) F Murphy 7-11-6 .... Mr J P McNamara (5) 41
7 56P IMPERIAL FOUNTAIN 45 (C MacMillan) G M Moore 6-11-6 ......... B Harding –
8 5-F NORTHERN ACCORD 42 (B Halloway) M Dods 5-11-6 ........... R Garritty –
9 P/0P-P PACIFIC WAR 12 (H Grant) J Dodds 10-11-6 .............. J Burke –
10 FP/P5- SAND DIRECT 280P (T Pickering) B Ellison 8-11-6 ........ A Dobbin –
11 33/6-3 LINDAJANE 43 (Mrs H Whillans) D Whillans 7-11-1 ....... I Jardine (7) [redacted]
12 /404/F SUPREME TARGET 47 (S Ramsey & Partners) J Charlton 7-11-1 ..... B Storey –

BETTING: 2-1 Scotmail Lad, 4-1 Aztec Flyer, 5-1 Lindajane, 11-2 Global Legend, 6-1 Valigan, 12-1 High Pyrenees, Northern Accord, 33-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

[redacted] Scotmail Lad beat Jaunty General a distance in 10-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy); previously 5½l 4th of 19 to Aussie Bob in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Valigan 8l 2nd of 10 to You're Agoodun in novice handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, soft); previously 25l 7th of 17 to Sir Bob in novice hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to soft) with Ballymana Boy (1lb worse off) 74l 10th and Imperial Fountain (1lb worse off) pulled up. Aztec Flyer 12l 5th of 10 to Saleel in amateur novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, soft); previously 7l 2nd of 8 to Symonds Inn in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Global Legend 17l 3rd of 19 to McHattie in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy) with Ballymana Boy (levels) 87l 16th. High Pyrenees 33l 7th of 14 to Lord Lamb in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy); previously 42l 6th of 19 to Lord Lamb in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft) with Northern Accord (levels) fell. Lindajane neck 3rd of 10 to Classical Dance in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, heavy); previously beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Swamp Gandy in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, soft). Supreme Target fell in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, heavy); previously 7¾l 4th of 12 to Pontevedra in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good).

SCOTMAIL LAD is heavily penalised for his two wins but nevertheless looks equal to the task

### 1.40 POLYFLOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,526: 3m) (4 runners)

1 2P/3F3 IVY HOUSE 35 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 11-11-10 ......... R McGrath [redacted]
2 BF-442 COMMITTED SCHEDULE 10 (F,G,S) (Schedule Partnership) N Richards 8-11-5 .A Dobbin 105
3 34-12F MALAWI 13 (B,CD,G,S) (W Bethell) J Jefferson 9-11-3 .......... G Tormey 111
4 /01F-3 SUNNY LEITH 17 (S) (G Cowan) P Monteith 8-10-1 .......... C McCormack (3) 89

BETTING: 5-4 Ivy House, 11-8 Committed Schedule, 11-2 Malawi, 12-1 Sunny Leith.

[redacted] Ivy House 11l 3rd of 11 to Prime Example in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 5f, soft). Committed Schedule 3l 2nd of 7 to Chipped Out in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy); previously 38l 4th of 5 to Blue Irish in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, heavy) with Ivy House (2lb worse off) fell. Malawi fell in handicap chase at Stratford (3m, heavy), previously 22l 2nd of 6 to Better Times Ahead in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, heavy). Sunny Leith 40l 3rd of 5 to Santa Concerto in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, heavy).

IVY HOUSE, clear of the remainder when third in first-time blinkers latest, looks the one to beat

### 2.10 STANLEY CASINO NOVICES CHASE (£3,631: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1 2-2F23 BOBBY GRANT 15 (D,G,S) (J Thompson) C Grant 8-11-5 ......... C McCormack (3) [redacted]
2 60-420 FORESHORE MAN 38 (S) (J M G Promotions Ltd) B Rothwell 8-11-5 ... A S Smith –
3 P2-032 HARDEN GLEN 17 (S) (M Walton) J Storey 8-11-5 ............ B Storey 96
4 34-F24 MR FRANGIPANI 10 (BF) (Ashleybank Investments Ltd) N Richards 8-11-5 ... A Dobbin 108
5 5P-0U6 WHAT'S THE BUZZ 48 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-11-5 ....... Mr J Crowley (5) 40
6 /1130- STORM CALL 283 (S) (C Whillans) D Whillans 8-11-0 ............ B Harding –

BETTING: EVENS Bobby Grant, 3-1 Mr Frangipani, 9-2 Harden Glen, 8-1 Foreshore Man, 12-1 Storm Call, 33-1 What's The Buzz.

[redacted] Bobby Grant 6l 3rd of 8 to Ardent Scout in novice chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft); previously neck 2nd of 11 to Tom's Tip in novice chase at Newcastle (3m, soft). Foreshore Man 52l 14th of 19 to Aussie Bob in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 2¾l 2nd of 10 to Saleel in amateur novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, soft). Harden Glen 2½l 2nd of 6 to Supreme Soviet in novice handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy); previously 7¾l 3rd of 10 to Birkdale in novice chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Mr Frangipani 31l last of 4 to Chummy's Saga in novice handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy); previously 5l 2nd of 9 to Menshaar in novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy). What's The Buzz 47l 6th of 10 to Slash The Cash in novice chase at Hexham (2m 110yd, heavy). Storm Call 52l 7th of 9 to Coltstown Boy in novice handicap hurdle at Perth (2m 4f 110yd, heavy); previously 8l 3rd of 7 to Premier Cru in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, heavy).

BOBBY GRANT has something in hand on the form book and can open his chase account

### 2.40 NORTHERN IMAGE HANDICAP HURDLE (INTERMEDIATE RACE)
(£4,342: 2m) (6 runners)

1 4101-4 KINGS MEASURE 15 (D,G,S) (J Wilson) J Jefferson 6-12-0 ............ L Wyer [redacted]
2 45216 JAROCIN 10 (G) (Spit & Polish) Mrs D Thomson 6-12-0 ............ B Storey –
3 0-3322 ROBBO 17 (B,CD,S) (Scarth Racing Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10 ... P Niven 107
4 1/15-2 LORD PODGSKI 10 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs G Smyth) P Monteith 8-11-2 . C McCormack (3) 45
5 3132-5 BERNARD SEVEN 10 (G) (The Heavy Going Partnership) Miss L Russell 7-10-2 S Durack –
6 156134 JUST LIZZIE 29 (D,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 6-10-0 ............ N Horrocks (5) 78

Long handicap: Just Lizzie 6-13

BETTING: 11-8 Kings Measure, 5-2 Robbo, 11-4 Lord Podgski, 12-1 Bernard Seven, 25-1 Just Lizzie, 50-1 Jarocin.

[redacted] Kings Measure 11l 4th of 7 to World Express in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft); previously beat Zander 2l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 6f, good). Robbo 4l 2nd of 6 to Coltstown Boy in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy); previously 2l 2nd of 6 to Churchtown Glen in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Lord Podgski 2½l 2nd of 6 to Crystal Gift in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, heavy) with Bernard Seven (1lb better off) 24l 5th and Jarocin (2lb worse off) 36l 6th. Just Lizzie 12l 4th of 9 to Kris Green in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy); previously 7½l 3rd of 8 to Erley in handicap hurdle at Hexham (2m, heavy).

ROBBO was again unlucky to find one too good last time and, off the same mark, may now go one better

### 3.10 ADVENT RACECOURSE CATERING NOVICES CHASE
(£3,666: 3m) (6 runners)

1 1/F-31 MASTER NOVA 60 (CD,S) (Mrs S Camacho) Miss J A Camacho 9-11-11 R Garritty 85
2 -35212 MENSHAAR 14 (C,D,G,S) (Miss S Blumberg) L Lungo 7-11-11 ........ R Supple [redacted]
3 P53P0U CHIEF CHIPPIE 11 (B) (49 Partnership) W Kemp 8-11-4 ............ B Harding 20
4 824/PP FINGERHILL 54 (D,F,G) (M Thompson) V Thompson 10-11-4 .... Mr M Thompson –
5 WOOL HOUSE (P Needham) P Needham 10-11-4 ............ B Storey –
6 -PFP5P POLITICAL MANDATE 11 (G Nixon) R Nixon 6-10-13 ......... C McCormack (3) 41

BETTING: 8-11 Master Nova, 5-4 Menshaar, 25-1 Chief Chippie, 33-1 Fingerhill, Political Mandate, 50-1 Wool House.

[redacted] Master Nova beat Bold Action 16l in 12-runner novice chase at Newcastle (3m, good to soft); previously beaten a distance last of 3 to Baldar in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Menshaar beaten a distance 2nd of 4 to Cherokee Chief in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft); previously beat Mr Frangipani 5l in 9-runner novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy).

MASTER NOVA and Menshaar look to have this between them with the former preferred at the trip

### 3.40 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (£1,532: 2m) (11 runners)

1 BIRREGURRA KATE (P Needham) P Needham 6-11-4 ............ N Hannity (7) –
2 04- COLMARANN 333 (K Fisher) Mrs S Smith 7-11-4 ............ Mr J Crowley (5) 27
3 40 DUN ROSE 48 (Mrs R Charles) J Storey 5-11-4 ............ B Harding 55
4 KATIE MURPHY (P Murphy) D Shaw 5-11-4 ............ N Horrocks (5) –
5 LADY ALICE (Mrs L Provan) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-4 ............ D Parker –
6 ROMAN UPROAR (Mrs K Walton) M Hammond 5-11-4 ............ D Bentley –
7 50 STATE OF LOVE 26 (Paper Boys) W Storey 6-11-4 ............ R McGrath 42
8 0 WORTHY DANCER 48 (J Robson) J Charlton 6-11-4 ............ B Storey –
9 3- WYNYARD DANCER 232 (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 ............ P Niven [redacted]
10 FINE AND ROSY (Miss J Palmer) M Dods 4-10-6 ............ S Taylor –
11 REMEMBER EQUINAME (K Elliott) D Eddy 4-10-6 ............ A Dobbin –

BETTING: 5-4 Wynyard Dancer, 4-1 Roman Uproar, Remember Equiname, 10-1 Colmarann, 12-1 Dun Rose, 14-1 State Of Love, 20-1 Worthy Dancer, 25-1 others.

[redacted] Birregurra Kate Kind of Hush mare out of winning pointer Kate O'Kirkham. Colmarann 18l 4th of 18 to Bosa Bosa in mares national hunt flat at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft); previously 36l 11th of 18 to Running Water in national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Dun Rose 41l 6th of 18 to Lord Of The Sky in national hunt flat race at Hexham (2m, heavy) with Worthy Dancer (levels) 76l 10th. Katie Murphy Over The River mare out of Society Belle. Lady Alice Green Adventure mare, half-sister to winning hurdler More Champagne. Roman Uproar Primitive Rising mare, half-sister to winning hurdler Roman Outlaw. State Of Love 39l 12th of 16 to Native Affair in national hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, good). Wynyard Dancer 3l 3rd of 7 to Waterlaw in national hunt flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). Fine And Rosy Petoski filly out of a lightly-raced mare. Remember Equiname Beldorf filly out of Easby Mosella.

WYNYARD DANCER showed promise on her only start last season and should give a good account

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

| TRAINERS | Wins | Rnrs | % | JOCKEYS | Wins | Rnrs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mrs M Reveley | 46 | 184 | 25.0 | P Niven | 42 | 133 | 31.6 |
| J Jefferson | 11 | 49 | 22.4 | R Garritty | 18 | 95 | 18.9 |
| F Murphy | 7 | 43 | 16.3 | D Parker | 7 | 47 | 14.9 |
| J J O'Neill | 5 | 32 | 15.6 | A Dobbin | 16 | 114 | 14.0 |
| L Lungo | 10 | 73 | 13.7 | R McGrath | 7 | 52 | 13.5 |
| P Monteith | 5 | 44 | 11.4 | B Storey | 14 | 128 | 10.9 |
| J Charlton | 3 | 32 | 9.4 | R Supple | 10 | 97 | 10.3 |
| G M Moore | 6 | 71 | 8.5 | L Wyer | 8 | 83 | 9.6 |
| M Hammond | 8 | 100 | 8.0 | B Harding | 6 | 67 | 9.0 |
| Mrs S Smith | 3 | 61 | 4.9 | A S Smith | 5 | 75 | 6.7 |

**BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield:** 1.30 Callitwhatyouwant, Itsallhappening, Zola Power.



□ David Johnson, the champion National Hunt owner, is mulling over the Cheltenham Festival options for Cyfor Malta, with the Martin Pipe-trained gelding featuring among the entries for both the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup and Queen Mother Champion Chase (Chris McGrath writes). "He loves Cheltenham," Johnson said at Fontwell yesterday. "But he has never gone over the Gold Cup trip and we're in the dark whether he'll get it, though Martin Pipe thinks he will. But he travels so well, we must have a look at the other race. With all due respect, there are no obvious stars around over two miles. He could be the horse they all have to beat. To me, the Gold Cup looks a lot tougher." He will run next either in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday week, against See More Business and Escartefigue, or the Game Spirit Chase at Newbury a fortnight later.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

I discussed the bidding on this TGR hand yesterday.

Dealer West — N-S game — Rubber bridge

North: ♠ Q J 8 7 6 ♡ 5 3 ◇ 10 9 8 2 ♣ A K

West: ♠ A K 10 9 4 ♡ A K 9 8 7 6 ◇ 4 ♣ 9

East: ♠ 5 3 2 ♡ Q 10 4 2 ◇ K 7 6 5 ♣ Q 8

South: ♠ – ♡ J ◇ A Q J 3 ♣ J 10 7 6 5 4 3 2

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Courtney* | *Hallberg* | *Brinig* | *Simpson* |
| 2 H | Pass | 3 H | 3 S |
| Double | Pass | 4 H | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 C | Pass |
| 5 H | 5 S | Double | 6 C |
| Double | All Pass | | |

**Contract: Six Clubs doubled, by South. Lead: ace of spades.**

After an auction with several dubious calls, Colin Simpson drew a dummy containing two jokers as well as a couple of goodies in diamonds. But there was still a point of technique.

After ruffing the spade he crossed to dummy with a club. He then carefully played a diamond to the queen. When that held he could draw the other trump, and run the ten of diamonds. Note the importance of the early diamond finesse – if he draws both trumps before tackling diamonds, he cannot pick up East's king. And if West has no diamonds and two clubs (not likely after his Four No-Trump bid), the contract is not makeable even if he draws two trumps immediately.

This year's Camrose series has been made more exciting by the presence of the Republic of Ireland who have rejoined the series after a long absence. In the first round Eire beat Wales 48-12, Scotland beat Northern Ireland 48-12 and England had a bye.

In this second round England, after losing the first two sessions to Wales, rallied to take the third convincingly and beat Wales overall, 34-26. Northern Ireland, playing at home, beat Eire 33-27, while Scotland had a bye.

In the next round England travel to Ennis to play Eire while Scotland play host to Wales.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TZOLKIN
a. Blinis with caviare
b. A Russian playwright
c. A daft calendar

STEAMIE
a. A public wash-house
b. A suet dumpling
c. A jogger

YUAN
a. A dynasty
b. A China
c. A type of lace

SHAKUHACHI
a. Raw tuna
b. Mock fencing
c. A flute

Answers on page 46

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

### Hastings final

Today I conclude my coverage of the Hastings Premier tournament, the UK's strongest all-play-all, with the complete crosstable of results and a last win by grandmaster John Emms. Over the past year or so Emms's results, which include a shared first place in the 1997 British championship, have gradually propelled him into the upper echelon of British grandmasters.

**White:** John Emms
**Black:** Laurent Fressinet
Hastings Premier 1999
**Sicilian Defence**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | Nc3 | e6 |
| 4 | d4 | cxd4 |
| 5 | Nxd4 | Qc7 |
| 6 | Be2 | a6 |
| 7 | 0-0 | Nf6 |
| 8 | Be3 | Bb4 |
| 9 | Na4 | Be7 |
| 10 | Nxc6 | bxc6 |
| 11 | Nb6 | Rb8 |
| 12 | Nxc8 | Qxc8 |
| 13 | Bd4 | Nxe4 |
| 14 | Bxg7 | Rg8 |
| 15 | Be5 | d6 |
| 16 | Qd3 | f5 |
| 17 | Bh5+ | Kd7 |
| 18 | Rad1 | Rb5 |
| 19 | Bf4 | Rd5 |
| 20 | Qh3 | Bg5 |
| 21 | Bxg5 | Nxg5 |
| 22 | Qa3 | Rxd1 |
| 23 | Rxd1 | c5 |
| 24 | h4 | Ne4 |
| 25 | Bf3 | Qc6 |
| 26 | c4 | Kc7 |
| 27 | Qa5+ | Kb7 |
| 28 | b4 | cxb4 |
| 29 | Qxb4+ | Ka7 |
| 30 | Rd4 | Rd8 |
| 31 | Bxe4 | fxe4 |
| 32 | Qe1 | d5 |
| 33 | Qd2 | Rd7 |
| 34 | g3 | Ka8 |
| 35 | h5 | Ka7 |
| 36 | h6 | Ka8 |
| 37 | a3 | Kb7 |
| 38 | a4 | Kc8 |
| 39 | a5 | dxc4 |
| 40 | Rxd7 | Qxd7 |
| 41 | Qc3 | Qc7 |
| 42 | Qh8+ | Kb7 |
| 43 | Qc3 | e5 |
| 44 | Qb4+ | Ka7 |
| 45 | Kf1 | e3 |
| 46 | fxe3 | Qf7+ |
| 47 | Ke1 | Ka8 |
| 48 | Qd6 | Qf3 |
| 49 | Qxa6+ | Kb8 |
| 50 | Qb5+ | Ka8 |
| 51 | Qa6+ | Kb8 |
| 52 | Qb5+ | Ka7 |
| 53 | Qc5+ | Kb7 |
| 54 | Qxe5 | Ka6 |
| 55 | Kd2 | Qf1 |
| 56 | Qc5 | Kb7 |
| 57 | Qb5+ | Ka7 |
| 58 | Qc5+ | Kb7 |
| 59 | Qb6+ | Ka8 |
| 60 | Qa6+ | Kb8 |
| 61 | Qb6+ | Ka8 |
| 62 | Qd8+ | Kb7 |
| 63 | Qd4 | Kc6 |
| 64 | a6 | Kb5 |
| 65 | a7 | Qh1 |
| 66 | Qb2+ | Black resigns |

**Hastings Premier 1998-99 final crosstable**

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Sokolov | * | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | ½ | 7 |
| 2 Sadler | ½ | * | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | 0 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 5 |
| 3 Emms | 0 | ½ | * | ½ | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | ½ | ½ | 5 |
| 4 Speelman | ½ | ½ | ½ | * | ½ | 0 | 1 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 5 |
| 5 Ponomariov | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | * | ½ | 1 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 5 |
| 6 Shipov | 0 | ½ | 0 | 1 | ½ | * | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 7 Plaskett | 0 | 1 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 1 | * | 0 | ½ | ½ | 3½ |
| 8 Fressinet | ½ | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | 1 | * | ½ | ½ | 3½ |
| 9 Miles | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | 0 | ½ | ½ | * | ½ | 3½ |
| 10 Saltaev | ½ | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | * | 2½ |

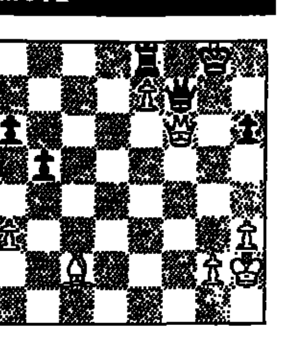
In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Lobron — Lutz, Germany, 1998.

How can White make the most of his advanced e-pawn?



Solution on page 46

FOOTBALL

# Banks puts boot in as £25m battle commences

By John Goodbody and Raymond Snoddy

TONY BANKS yesterday gave warning of the damage to English football if the Premier League loses its legal rights to negotiate as a body for televising the national game. Speaking on the eve of *the historic court case in London*, the Minister for Sport publicly criticised the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), a government-funded body, which today begins its claim that the



Banks: implications

*Premier League is acting as a* cartel. The case, which is likely to last four months and cost £25 million, has already aroused widespread anger. Yesterday, Banks joined in the dispute.

He said: "If indeed the OFT were to find against the football authorities and the broadcasting authorities ... then there would be profound implications, damaging implications for the whole structure of *football in this country.*"

The OFT considers that in joining together to sell their rights collectively the clubs are acting as a cartel — one that would be unacceptable in any other industry. It claims that the cartel curtails choice and raises costs for television viewers, by preventing clubs from *selling their rights independ*ently and also restricting the number of games being shown on television.

Speaking in London at the launch of the Football Task Force's report on football in the community, Banks quoted John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, who said: "Any other business acting in this way would be subject to competition laws and I see no reason why the selling *of sports coverage should be* treated differently."

Banks then claimed the difference was that "football is a sport that happens to be a business rather than a business that happens to be a sport".

He defended his right as a minister to make his views known — before the case begins today in the Restrictive Practices Court — by saying that Bridgeman had been publicly quoted on the subject *and that therefore he was* entitled to comment.

The Premier League has already said that it will be "fighting for its life" in the case, the most expensive in British sporting history, because it is feared that ten clubs, including Arsenal and Manchester United, will break away and set up their own competition.

The League believes the case is damaging and a waste of money. It estimates its own costs at more *than £7 million* and believes that the other defendants, the BBC and BSkyB, *in which News International,* owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, will spend similar amounts. The BBC and Sky are, at present, parties to the £743 million four-year deal with the Premier League to screen matches and highlights. The OFT will spend more than £2.5 million of taxpayers' money even before any possible appeal against a verdict, which is not expected before July.

*If the OFT were to win the* case, it is claimed that up to £35 million will be lost to grass-roots football. The Premier League yesterday agreed that 5 per cent of any future television deal will be diverted from the professional game into schools and public playing fields.

This announcement was made at Wormwood Scrubs, in West London. David Mellor, the chairman of the task force, said that the increasing commercialisation of the national game may have brought *many benefits but the* "sheer speed of this development has created unease about the way the game is heading. There is also much talk of the game being awash with money at the highest level while facilities in schools and at the grass roots are in a poor state of repair and clubs in lower divisions struggle to survive."

The task force, which is backed by the Government, wants more professional footballers to become involved in local community work, with the report stating that players *from all divisions made a total* of only 4,000 recorded community appearances in 1996. It adds: "Overall, activity by players in the top division would seem to be decreasing."

The statement has been criticised by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), who has pointed out that it was the PFA that originally set up the community programme and its members have worked hard to make it work.

Taylor claims that he was *not invited to the launch* yesterday and has resigned from the task force.



Mellor at the launch of the Football Task Force's report on football in the community in London yesterday

## Yeovil in sight of record Cup run

By Russell Kempson and Richard Hobson

THINK of a giant-killing act in the FA Cup and Yeovil Town spring to mind. At Huish Park tonight, the Somerset club will attempt to *claim their nineteenth victory* against Football League opposition when they face Cardiff City in a third-round replay.

Yeovil, from the Football Conference, almost extended their scalping record at the first attempt when they were denied only by a late equaliser in the 1-1 draw at Ninian Park ten days ago. Cardiff, the Nationwide League third division leaders, won 4-1 at home to Hartlepool United on Saturday.

Fifty years ago, Yeovil reached the fourth round of the Cup for the only time in their history after wins against Romford, Weymouth and Bury. Their 2-1 win against Sunderland, then of the first division, still ranks as one of the competition's greatest upsets, even though they were subsequently humbled 8-0 by Manchester United at Old Trafford in the fifth round.

Yeovil or Cardiff will play the winners of tonight's replay between Sheffield United and Notts County at Meadow Lane. Steve Bruce, in his first season as United's player manager, is prepared to select himself after criticising his team for a lack of passion and spirit during the 1-1 draw at Bramall Lane ten days ago.

His comments irked Notts County, who felt that they deserved more credit for holding United to a draw. Fifth from bottom of the second division, County have suffered eight defeats at home this season and Sam Allardyce, the manager, admits he needs to strengthen the team.

The victors of the replay between Barnsley and Swindon Town at Oakwell tonight will take on Bournemouth at home in the next round. *Barnsley and Swindon drew* 0-0 in their first game at the County Ground.

## Wycombe may try to line up Bassett

By Russell Kempson and Stephen Wood

NEIL SMILLIE, the manager of Wycombe Wanderers, was dismissed yesterday after only 11 months in charge. The Nationwide League club, 22nd in the second *division*, could now offer Dave Bassett, the former Nottingham Forest manager, a swift return after his departure from the City Ground last week.

Smillie succeeded John Gregory at Adams Park in February and was given the job permanently on the final day of last season. Wycombe won only one of their first 16 games this season and despite a modicum of improvement towards the end of the year, they have lost their past three matches.

Bayern Munich are considering making an offer for David Beckham, the England and Manchester United midfield player, as they look to strengthen their squad for the expanded European Cup Champions' League next season. "We are in the market for players like Beckham," Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the Bayern vice-president, said yesterday. "We are in the hunt for a superstar of his calibre."

Teddy Sheringham has expressed his frustration at his lack of opportunities at Old Trafford. With Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer ahead of him in the pecking order, Sheringham has started only six senior matches this season. "The manager has four strikers to choose from, which makes things *difficult* for me," Sheringham said. "I'm not coping very well with not playing regularly in the first team."

Bolton Wanderers are hoping to add to their Scandinavian contingent. They have offered Brondby £1 million for the services of Bo Hansen, a Denmark-born striker.

Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, and Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka, of *Arsenal*, are in a France squad of 18 for the match against Morocco on January 20.

CRICKET: TEST-PLAYING NATIONS AGREE TO SURRENDER CONTROL OVER PLAYER DISCIPLINE

# ICC given power to act over match-fixing

By Richard Hobson

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) has been granted new powers to impose authority on the issue of match-fixing, which is threatening to undermine the sport after the accusations made against Salim Malik, of Pakistan, and more recently, allegations of the involvement of players with South Asian bookmakers. Where individual countries were previously allowed to determine their rules on player discipline, they will now be bound by the ICC's own uniform penalties.

A landmark decision to relinquish an element of sovereignty was agreed unanimously by the nine Test-playing countries at a two-day executive meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, which David Richards, the ICC chief executive, described as "historic". A three-man commission, independent of any cricket board, will be convened before the end of February to oversee investigations into allegations of bribery and recommend punishments.

It will have authority to order any of the ICC's member nations to carry out an independent inquiry into match-fixing, and then to conduct its own review if the results are deemed to be unsatisfactory. Each country will be required to set up its own judicial process for handling cases. There is also provision to punish a country failing to comply with procedures.

After the introduction of match referees and a code of conduct in 1991, the ICC can now govern in the true sense of the word. Richards, his hands tied in the past, said: "This meeting has given the ICC teeth. We can take cricket into the next century with restored dignity and harmony."

The image of cricket was tarnished when Shane Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May, of Australia, first made accusations against Salim in 1994. More allegations over the connection of Warne and Waugh with bookmakers forced the ICC to act to restore credibility. "We have a serious problem, but the view of the board is that this is not rampant through the game," Richards said.

Delegates will reassemble at Lord's in June, when plans for a world championship of Test matches are also on the agenda. There is still indecision over whether to formulate a showpiece event similar to the World Cup or to adopt a rolling programme over four or five years — although Richards has guaranteed the future of the traditional five-Test Ashes series.

Darrell Hair, the Australian umpire, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute for comments in his autobiography about the bowling action of Muttiah Muralitharan. Hair could face a fine and suspension after describing the Sri Lanka spin bowler's action as "diabolical".

The ICC will recommend that an eight-man version of the game features at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. The under-19 World Cup, hosted by Sri Lanka next year, is to become a biennial event with a likely field of 16 countries.



Richards: historic decision

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Smith seeks hearing over failed drug test

■ SWIMMING: Michelle Smith, the triple Olympic champion who was suspended for four years last summer for manipulating a urine sample provided to drug testers a year ago last Sunday, is seeking a preliminary hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on the grounds that she and her solicitor, Peter Lennon, had not been given access to all the relevant documents in the case (Craig Lord writes).

The CAS said yesterday that Smith was likely to know her fate in March; a hearing date is to be announced before the end of this month. A provisional date of February 5 depends on whether the arbitration panel of three lawyers is available.

### Arsenal feel at home

■ **FOOTBALL: Arsenal, the holders, have been given a home tie in the fifth round of the AXA FA Women's Cup. They will face either Everton or Wembley Mill Hill. Croydon will play either Aston Villa or Millwall Lionesses if they beat Blyth Spartans Kestrels. Doncaster Belles will meet either Wolverhampton Wanderers or Bradford City.**

### Duval eases to success

■ GOLF: *David Duval coasted to a nine-stroke victory in the* Mercedes Championship, the opening event of the PGA Tour, in Hawaii. Duval completed the tournament with a score of 266, 26 under par. Mark O'Meara and Billy Mayfair tied for second on 275. Duval's victory margin was the largest on the Tour since Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters by 12 strokes.

### No change for Henman

■ **TENNIS: Tim Henman, the British No 1, remains seventh in the world rankings despite his defeat by Rainer Schuttler, the German qualifier, in the final of the Qatar Open in Doha. Greg Rusedski, who lost in the first round to Bernd Karbacher, also of Germany, stays at No 9.**

### Johnson wins final spot

■ SNOOKER: Joe Johnson and Dennis Taylor had mixed fortunes in the final qualifying round, in Blackpool, for the Regal Scottish Open. Johnson beat Craig MacGillivray 5-2 to book his place, but Taylor, 49, who will retire from competition at the end of the season, lost 5-3 to Dave Finbow.

## FOR THE RECORD

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Play-off matches: National Conference:** Minnesota 41 Arizona 21. **American Conference:** New York Jets 34 Jacksonville 24

### BASKETBALL

**BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday:** Edinburgh Rocks 95 Manchester Giants 87

### BOWLS

**HOPTON-ON-SEA, Norfolk: World indoor singles: First round:** D Corkhill (Ire) bt J Baker (Ire) 7-6 7-6 7-0, D Holt (Eng) bt A Alcock (Eng) 3-7, 5-7, 7-5, 7-2, 7-3

### CRESTA RUN

**HEATON GOLD CUP:** 1, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 252 33sec; 2, Count L Marenzi (US) 253 61; 3, G Pitsch (Switz) 255 44.

**LIGHTNING CUP:** 1, B Steger (Switz) 136 87; 2, M Mottier (Switz) 136 95; 3, P Diethelm (Switz) 137 28

### CRICKET

**SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Fourth day of four: Adelaide:** South Australia 284-9 dec (B A Johnson 122, G R Parker 62) and 229 (G R Parker 117); Western Australia 330 (M Dighton 95, S M Katich 60; G Chillingworth 5-98) and 184-4 (M Hussey 97). Western Australia won by six wickets.

### CYCLING

**SUTTON PARK, Birmingham: British CCA National championships: Senior** (22km): 1, S Knight (Peugeot 406/Michelin) 1hr 0min 51sec; 2, N Craig (Diamond Back) at 14sec; 3, B Clarke (Team Raleigh) at 1:06. **Under-23** (18.5km): 1, D Bowater (Black Country Wheelers) 51 32; 2, P Oldham (Hope Technology) at 30sec; 3, G Hardwicke (Beauvale CC) at 1:23. **Juniors** (13.5km): 1, S Snodden (Ace RT) 39:11; 2, B Saunders (Hargroves Cycles) at 56sec; 3, P Lally (KHS-AXO) at 1:56

### DARTS

**LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB, Frimley Green: Embassy world championship: Final:** R Barneveld (Holl) bt R Baxter (Eng) 6-5

### FOOTBALL

**FA VASE: Fifth-round draw:** Bowers United or Woodbridge Town v Camberley Town; Bedford Town v Tiverton Town; Dunston FB v Lymington and New Milton; Ford United v Bedlington Terriers; Workington v Sudbury Wanderers or Garforth Town; Thame United v Wick or Vauxhall GM; Taunton Town v Northwood; Clitheroe or St Helens Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

☐ Ties to be played Saturday January 30

**FA WOMEN'S CUP: Fifth-round draw:** Three Bridges v Tranmere Rovers or Liverpool Ladies; Reading Royals v Brighton and Hove Albion; Langford or Arnold Town v Ilkeston or Sheffield Wednesday; Watford v Bangor City or Bedford Belles; Wolverhampton Wanderers or Bradford City v Doncaster Belles; Berkhamsted Town v Southampton Saints; Arsenal v Everton or Wembley Mill Hill; Blyth Spartans Kestrels or Croydon v Aston Villa Ladies or Millwall Lionesses

☐ Ties to be played Sunday February 7

### GOLF

**KAPALUA, Hawaii: Mercedes championship: Final scores** (US unless stated): **266:** D Duval 67, 63, 68, 68. **275:** M O'Meara 70, 68, 69, 68; W Mayfair 66, 69, 69, 71. **276:** V Singh (Fiji) 70, 65, 70, 71. **277:** J Leonard 68, 72, 68, 69; T Woods 69, 69, 67, 72; F Funk 66, 69, 68, 74. **278:** D Love 69, 68, 71, 70. **280:** J Furyk 68, 69, 68, 75. **281:** F Couples 69, 68, 73, 71. **282:** W Andrade 67, 70, 74, 71. **283:** J P Hayes 70, 71, 70, 72.

### ICE HOCKEY

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL):** NY Rangers 5 Tampa Bay 2; Ottawa 4 Detroit 1; Calgary 1 Florida 2; Anaheim 6 Edmonton 4; Chicago 2 Colorado 3 (OT); Vancouver 2 Dallas 0

### RUGBY FIVES

**MANCHESTER: National under-25 championships: Singles: Quarter-finals:** *I Purvis bt P Campbell 15-5, 15-2; B Lovett* bt N McIver 5-15, 15-9, 15-3; D Bailey bt S Fraser 5-15, 15-9, 15-2; A Dean bt C Jones 15-9, 15-5. **Semi-finals:** Purvis bt Lovett 15-5, 15-8; Bailey bt Dean 15-9, 15-13. **Final:** Purvis bt Bailey 15-9, 15-10

### RUGBY UNION

**WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Postponed:** Neath v Natal Wildebeest (playing today, 7.15).

**AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed:** Ballynahinch v Malone

### SAILING

**MELBOURNE: World championships** (after eight races, with one discard): **Laser class:** 1, B Ainslie (GB) 10pts; 2, R Scheidt (Br) 16; 3, M Blackburn (Aus) 18. **Other British placings:** 6, A Simpson 37; 24, E Wright 95; 31, M Barron 113; 40, M Littlejohn 140pts. **49er** (after 5 races): 1, C Nicholson and E Smyth (Aus) 5; 2, E Lazach and B Racine (Aus) 8; 3, J and G Boyd (Aus) 8. **British placings:** 7, A and I Budgen 8; 12, T Robinson and I Walker 17; 14, P Brotherton and N McDonald 18; 24, A Richardson and P Greenhalgh 28. **Finn Gold Cup** (after 4 races): 1, M Kusznierwicz (Pol) 30; 2, I Percy (GB) 35; 3, F Loof (Swe) 37. **Other British placings:** 14, D Mellor 77; 26, R Stenhouse 122; 28, C Chumbley 124; 36, J Lea 140; 60, R Ward 218. **470: Men: Group A** (after 6 races): 1, E Braslavets and I Matvenko (Ukr) 9; 2, A Kosmatopoulos and K Trigonis (Gr) 28; 3, A Rosenkilde Pederson and B Johnson (Den) 28. **British placings:** 10, N Rogers and J Glanfield 50. **Group B:** 1, G Philippe and T Cariou (Fr) 12; 2, J Conte and J Dela Fuente (Arg) 20; 3, M Reeser and K Burnham (US) 22. **British placings:** 21, M Fenwick and S Hughes 91; 24, D Jones and M Hogan 101. **Group C:** 1, S Cooke and P Nicholas (NZ) 18; 2, N Wilmot and D Smith (Aus) 22; 3, H Rocha and N Barreto (Por) 28. **British placings:** 15, D Edwards and A May 66; 19, C Draper and D Newman 83. **Women: Group A** (after 6 races): 1, N Birkner and W Bulle (Ger) 12; 2, F Salva and E Sossi (It) 22; 3, R Taran and E *Pakholchik (Ukr) 24.* **British placings:** 14, K Nurton and B Watson 58. **Group B:** 1, S Becatorou and E Tsoulfa (Gr) 16; 2, V Krachun and N Gaponovich (Russ) 22; 3, S and M Ward (Den) 22. **British placings:** 10, L Walker and S Parlen 39; 13, B Raggatt and S Webb 57; 20, S Rees Jones and I Leask 82. **Soling** (after 3 races): 1, S Westergaard and J Bojsen Moller and B Westergaard (Den) 8; 2, J Schuemann and G Behr and I Borkowski (Ger) 12; 3, J Madrigali and C Healy and E Stokkeland (US) 19. **British placings:** 13, L Smith and O Stewart and R Cruickshank 44; 16, A Beadsworth and R Sydenham and B Parkin 50. **Europe** (after 2 races): 1, S Robertson (GB) 2; 2, S Multala (Fin) 3; 3, M Dezille (Bel) 4. **Other British placings:** 35, J Singleton 24; 43, N Muller 30; 46, D Winstanley 3.

**CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 2d** (Galapagos to Hawaii; with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 1,710; 2, Serica (R Dean) 1,742; 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 1,768; 4, Mermerus (B Soltara) 1,785; 5, Taeping (N Fleming) 1,829

### SNOOKER

**BLACKPOOL: Scottish Open: Final qualifying round** (England unless stated): J Birch bt J Weston 5-2; S James bt S Bedford 5-2; D Roe bt K Burrows 5-0; Q Hann (Aus) bt M Dzewaltowski (Scot) 5-3; J Michie bt J Prince (N Ire) 5-4; D Finbow bt D Taylor (N Ire) 5-3; L Fernandez bt B Jones 5-2; P Lines bt M Fu (HK) 5-1; J Johnson bt C MacGillivray (Scot) 5-2; S Mazrocis bt P Wykes 5-2; M Wilson bt S Ali (Pak) 5-2; A Burden bt M Price 5-3; J Swail (N Ire) bt R Hull (Fin) 5-1; J Lardner (Scot) bt T Jones 5-4; *M Campbell (Scot) bt D O'Kane (NZ)* 5-4; *K Broughton bt P Phonbun (Thai) 5-3.*

### TENNIS

**AUCKLAND: Auckland Open: First round:** B Steven (NZ) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-1, 6-4; S Schalken (Holl) bt V Spadea (US) 7-6, 6-4; M Safin (Russ) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-3, 6-2; J A Marin (C Rica) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-4.

**WHITE CITY, Sydney: Sydney International: First round: Men:** M Rosset (Switz) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-4, 6-0; A Corretja (Sp) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; J M Gambill (US) bt S Stolle (Aus) 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 6-1. **Women:** M J Fernandez (US) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1; B Schett (Austria) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-1, 7-6 (7-1); K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 7-5, 6-1; P Schnyder (Switz) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

**HOBART: Tasmanian International: First round:** J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-0, 6-3; E Tatarkova (Ukr) bt E Callens (Bel) 6-4, 7-6; C Black (Zim) bt K Brandi (US) 6-2, 1-0 ret; S Pitkowski (Fr) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-4, 6-4; S Reeves (US) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-4, 7-5; M Drake (Can) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; N Pratt (Aus) bt C Morariu (US) 5-2 ret; Li Fang (China) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-2, 6-3

### SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

| | Depth (cm) L | Depth (cm) U | Piste | Conditions Runs to Resort | Off/p | Weather (5pm) | °C | Last snow |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Austria** | | | | | | | | |
| Kitzbühel | 20 | 80 | Good | Fair | Varied | Fine | 1 | 9/1 |
| Obergurgl | 45 | 175 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -1 | 11/1 |
| Soldeu | 80 | 100 | Good | Open | Powder | Sun | -8 | 10/1 |
| St Anton | 30 | 300 | Good | Open | Powder | Fair | 0 | 9/1 |
| **Canada** | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Louise | 107 | 125 | Good | Open | Varied | Cloud | 0 | 11/1 |
| **France** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpe d'Huez | 56 | 160 | Good | Fair | Varied | Snow | -5 | 11/1 |
| Avoriaz | 70 | 90 | Powder | Good | Powder | Snow | -5 | 11/1 |
| Chamonix | 50 | 135 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -10 | 11/1 |
| Flaine | 60 | 185 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -4 | 11/1 |
| La Clusaz | 55 | 110 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| La Plagne | 65 | 150 | Good | Fair | Powder | Snow | -5 | 11/1 |
| La Tania | 61 | 104 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 | 11/1 |
| Megève | 30 | 90 | Good | Fair | Powder | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| Méribel | 35 | 95 | Good | Fair | Powder | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| Tignes | 60 | 150 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -4 | 11/1 |
| Val Thorens | 50 | 120 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 | 11/1 |
| Val d'Isère | 60 | 150 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 | 11/1 |
| Valmorel | 35 | 105 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| **Italy** | | | | | | | | |
| Cervinia | 30 | 150 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | 0 | 11/1 |
| Cortina | 20 | 40 | Good | Closed | Varied | Cloud | 0 | 10/1 |
| Livigno | 48 | 125 | Good | Fair | Powder | Snow | -1 | 11/1 |
| M di Campiglio | 5 | 100 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -2 | 10/1 |
| **Norway** | | | | | | | | |
| Geilo | 60 | 60 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | -8 | 7/1 |
| **Switzerland** | | | | | | | | |
| Crans Montana | 20 | 75 | Good | Artificial | Powder | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| Davos | 40 | 130 | Good | Open | Varied | Cloud | -1 | 11/1 |
| Klosters | 30 | 130 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | 0 | 11/1 |
| Murren | 30 | 100 | Good | Fair | Varied | Snow | -2 | 11/1 |
| St Moritz | 10 | 50 | Hard | Closed | Powder | Cloud | -2 | 10/1 |
| **United States** | | | | | | | | |
| Aspen | 15 | 145 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | -4 | 10/1 |
| Deer Valley | 70 | 77 | Good | Open | Varied | Fair | -6 | 8/1 |

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

**FA Cup**

**Third-round replays**

Barnsley v Swindon (7.45)

Notts County v Sheffield Utd (7.45)

Yeovil v Cardiff (7.45)

**Auto Windscreens Shield**

**Northern section**

**Second round**

Hartlepool v Preston

Darlington v Chesterfield (at Chesterfield FC, 7.45)

Wigan v Scarborough (7.45)

Rochdale v Stoke (7.45)

Scunthorpe v Carlisle

**Scottish League**

**First division**

Hamilton v Clydebank (7.45)

**Second division**

Forfar v Clyde

Livingston v East Fife

**Third division**

Berwick v Ross County

Cowdenbeath v Brechin

Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir

**DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division:** Bedworth v Stafford. **League Cup: Second-round replay:** Rothwell v Grantham; Weymouth v Bath

**UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division:** Emley v Frickley. **First division:** Droylsden v Trafford. **President's Cup: Second round:** Altrincham v Leigh RMI

**ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Third round:** Barton Rovers v Boreham Wood (7.45), Maidenhead v Slough

**RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division:** Walton and Hersham v Basingstoke (7.45). **Puma Cup: Second round:** Hendon v Heybridge Swifts; Worthing v Aldershot Town. **Third round:** Enfield v Purfleet. **First division:** Berkhamsted v Hitchin. **Second division:** Barking v Hemel Hempstead; Witham v Met Police. **Third division:** Ford Utd v East Thurrock. **Vandanel Trophy: Second round:** Abingdon Town v Egham. **Third round:** Bedford Town v Leighton Town; Hertford v Windsor and Eton.

**THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third-round replay:** Walsall v Tottenham. **Fourth round:** Crewe v Queens Park Rangers.

**THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference:** Grimsby v Rotherham (12.0)

**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division:** Millwall v Crystal Palace (2.0); Queens Park Rangers v Bournemouth (2.0). Cambridge v West Ham (7.0)

**FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-17:** Barnsley v Sheffield Wed (11.0). **Under-19:** Barnsley v Sheffield Wed (11.0).

**ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division:** Dunston Federation v Newcastle Blue Star; Easington v Morpeth Town

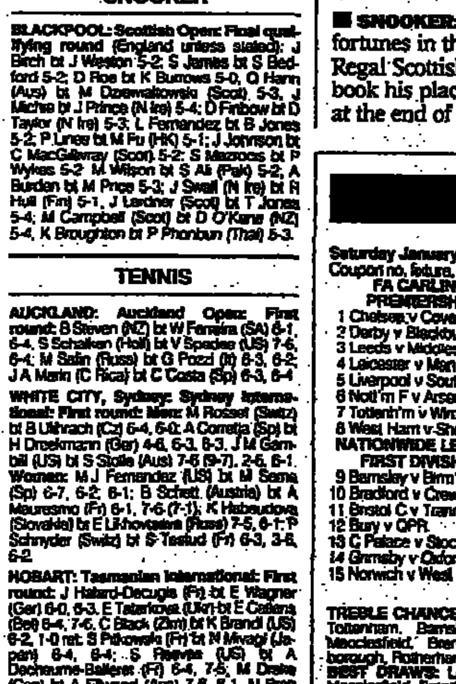
**SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division:** Bishop Sutton v Tiverton.

**MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division:** Harpenden v Potters Bar Town; Hoddesdon v Hillingdon Borough; New Bradwell St Peter v Beaconsfield Sycob; Somersett Ambury v Ruislip Manor; Waltham Abbey v Brimsdown. **Premier division Cup: Third round:** Barkingside v St Margaretsbury; Royston v Brook House. **Challenge Trophy: Second round:** Cockfosters v Holmer Green. **Second-round replay:** Arlesey Town v Haringey.

**NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division:** Atherton LR v Ramsbottom; Nantwich Town v Maine Road; Salford v Bootle

### RUGBY UNION

**SWALEC CUP: Fourth round: Group B:** Cross Keys v Dunvant (7.30). **Group L:** Llandovery v Cardiff (7.30)



## POOLS FORECAST



**Saturday January 16**

Coupon no, fixture, forecast

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP** | | |
| 1 Chelsea v Coventry | 1 | |
| 2 Derby v Blackburn | 2 | |
| 3 Leeds v Middlesbro | X | |
| 4 Leicester v Man Utd | 2 | |
| 5 Liverpool v South'pton | 1 | |
| 6 Nott'm F v Arsenal | 2 | |
| 7 Tottenh'm v Wimb'don | X | |
| 8 West Ham v Sheff W | 1 | |
| **NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION** | | |
| 9 Barnsley v Birm'ham | X | |
| 10 Bradford v Crewe | 1 | |
| 11 Bristol C v Tranmere | 1 | |
| 12 Bury v QPR | X | |
| 13 C Palace v Stockport | 1 | |
| 14 Grimsby v Oxford | 1 | |
| 15 Norwich v West Brom | 2 | |
| 16 Port Vale v Swindon | X | |
| 17 Portsmouth v Hudd'fld | 1 | |
| 18 Sheff Utd v Bolton | 2 | |
| 19 Wolves v Watford | 1 | |
| **SECOND DIVISION** | | |
| 20 Bourn'm'th v Notts Co | 1 | |
| 21 Barnsley v Chest'field | 1 | |
| 22 Gillingham v York | 1 | |
| 23 Macclesfield v Stoke | X | |
| 24 Man City v Fulham | 1 | |
| 25 North'pton v Walsall | 2 | |
| 26 Oldham v Blackpool | 1 | |
| 27 Preston v Luton | 1 | |
| 28 Reading v Bristol R | 1 | |
| 29 Wigan v Lincoln | 1 | |
| 30 Wycombe v Millwall | 2 | |
| **THIRD DIVISION** | | |
| 31 Brentford v Halifax | X | |
| 32 Carlisle v Scunthorpe | X | |
| 33 *Chester v Brighton | V | |
| 34 Darlington v Hull | 1 | |
| 35 Hartlepool v Barnet | 1 | |
| 36 Peterboro v Cardiff | X | |
| 37 Plymouth v Mansfield | 2 | |
| 38 Rotherh'm v Leyton O | X | |
| 39 Scarboro v Exeter | 2 | |
| **SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION** | | |
| 40 Ayr v Airdrie | X | |
| 41 Clydebank v St Mirren | 2 | |
| 42 Falkirk v G Morton | 1 | |
| 43 Hibernian v Hamilton | 1 | |
| 44 Stranraer v Raith | 2 | |
| **SECOND DIVISION** | | |
| 45 Alloa v Livingston | 1 | |
| 46 Clyde v Inverness CT | 1 | |
| 47 Forfar v Stirling | 2 | |
| 48 Partick v Arbroath | 1 | |
| **THIRD DIVISION** | | |
| 49 Berwick v Stenh'muir | X | |

* denotes match void

**TREBLE CHANCE** (home teams): Leeds, Tottenham, Barnsley, Bury, Port Vale, Macclesfield, Brentford, Carlisle, Peterborough, Rotherham, Ayr, Berwick.

**BEST DRAWS:** Leeds, Bury, Port Vale, Macclesfield, Brentford.

**AWAYS:** Blackburn, West Bromwich, Bolton, Millwall, Exeter

**HOMES:** Liverpool, Bristol City, Grimsby, Bournemouth, Oldham, Preston, Reading, Wigan, Darlington.

**FIXED ODDS: Homes:** Liverpool, Bristol City, Bournemouth, Oldham, Reading. **Aways:** West Bromwich, Millwall, Exeter. **Draws:** Leeds, Macclesfield, Brentford.

☐ Vince Wright

## Lindsay insists that the decision to stand down from Super League was his alone

# Spin-doctor departs with final twist in tale

When Maurice Lindsay confirmed yesterday that he would be stepping down as managing director of Super League Europe (SLE), it was with the archetypal soundbite on which he has based a reputation: "I've watched a lot of administrators in sport go on to the walking-stick stage and I was never going to do that," he said.

Twenty years ago, Lindsay learned the value of a good quote when as a new director at Wigan, who he had watched since boyhood, he made it his mission to ensure that the rugby league club, and not Wigan Athletic Football Club, led the back page of the local evening newspaper. No rugby league figure in the past two decades has gone on to hog the limelight like Maurice Patrick Lindsay.

Certainly, few sports administrators have made themselves as accessible or mastered the art of spin. His tongue has occasionally tied him in knots, but Houdini could not have extricated himself from such tight spots. When the media gathered yesterday at Headingley amid rumblings that he might be pushed, Lindsay confirmed the unanimous support of the 14 Super League clubs and that he had approached them for a retirement date. "It's very much my decision," he announced.

Even on his way out, his reputation as the Great Survivor seemed somehow unmoved. He intends to depart when his present contract expires at the end of the forthcoming season in October, although sooner remains a possibility. He spent more than £200,000 last month on betting pitches at Cheltenham, York, Doncaster and Haydock Park racecourses. During his 20 years in rugby league, he has kept his interest as an on-rails bookmaker, which hardly endeared him to enemies who referred to him simply as "The Bookie".

If a smooth handover can be completed quickly, Chris Caisley, the SLE chairman, confirmed that Lindsay may leave early. Even then, he will continue as an unpaid non-executive director responsible for television negotiations and new franchises. For all the supposed young Turks about, there is still no more cunning wheeler-dealer — some would argue manipulative and ruthless — than Lindsay, who was anxious not to sever his links completely.


World at his feet: Lindsay, right, was instrumental in the formation of the Super League in 1995, which transformed the financial fortunes of rugby league

Not for the first time, Lindsay referred to rugby league "punching above its weight" — a phrase often used to describe him. At 58, the boyish enthusiasm still shines through. As his other profession implies, his is a gambler's instinct.

There were times during the club mergers furore in 1995 when he seemed to stake the game itself on getting the right price for the new Super League. At £87 million, Lindsay won but at a personal cost.

His most vivid memory of that time was being accosted outside Wembley after the Wigan team, whose rise he had orchestrated, had won their eighth successive Challenge Cup final. "A man with his wife and son stopped the car on a zebra crossing," he said. "'Why are you ruining this kid's future?' he kept shouting. What people wouldn't admit at the time was that rugby league was on its way out without the News Corporation deal. We went from the begging bowl to the rich man's table."

On arrival at Wigan as a junior director, Lindsay was ordered to make the tea. A great club had reached its nadir of the second division and with three fellow directors — Jack Hilton, Tom Rathbone and Jack Robinson — a boardroom coup cleared the deadwood and set the stage for a domination unseen in English sport. When Wigan beat Hull in the classic 1985 Challenge Cup final, Lindsay's thirst for glory continued to drive Wigan onwards and upwards. It was Lindsay who brought John Ferguson and Brett Kenny, two fine Australian talents, to Central Park; he was responsible for such signings as Ellery Hanley, Andy Gregory and Martin Offiah and others to make pulses race; and he appointed two overseas coaches, firstly Graham Lowe and then John Monie, who transformed Wigan on the field while Lindsay, as chairman, created a model professional outfit.

> 'It will seem strange without him, and not nearly so colourful'

His appointment in 1992 as Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive was no surprise, but after the laid-back regime of the urbane David Oxley, the self-made, ambitious Lindsay came as a rude awakening at the old Chapeltown Road headquarters. Delegation was never a strong point, fools were not suffered and his personal mission to take the game to the promised land — anywhere outside the North, it seemed — brought casualties and enemies in abundance.

A workaholic and ruthless perfectionist, perhaps there was no-one better qualified than Lindsay when the Super League came knocking in 1995. The windfall saw the game on the verge of being torn apart over mergers, franchises and the switch to summer rugby, during which the knives were unsheathed for the demonised Lindsay, but it is a fact that rugby league is better placed now than it has ever been.

When he referred to leaving behind the "drivel and dross" after six years at the RFL, Lindsay's famous tact did not make his jumping ship to SLE last year any smoother. His new relationship with Caisley, one of Lindsay's fiercest critics while at the RFL, was a mystery, but within weeks, Lindsay had delivered his parting gifts — a two-year sponsorship of the Super League by JJB Sports and a renegotiated £45 million television deal up to 2003.

"Since 1979, I've seen every year bring an advancement," Lindsay said. "1999 will be the best yet." It will be strange without him, less controversial perhaps, but undoubtedly not nearly so colourful.

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**SAILING**

## Ainslie closes in on first Laser title

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

BEN AINSLIE is continuing to set a blistering pace at the Laser class world championships in Melbourne where he leads his old rival, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, by five points with two days of racing left.

The young Briton is bidding for his first world title in Lasers and is determined to stop Scheidt adding a third to his existing two, hardly putting a tack out of place over the past three days.

Apart from the first race when he finished ninth to Scheidt's seventh, the Olympic silver medal-winner, recently voted BT/YJA Inshore Racing Yachtsman of the Year, has never been out of the top three. Yesterday he was third in the first race and won the second, his fifth win so far.

Shirley Robertson began her bid for a world title in the Europe single-handed dinghy with two wins yesterday. In the Finn class, Iain Percy is second after four races, five points behind Mateusz Kusnierwicz, the Polish Olympic gold medal-winner.

In the hotly contested 49er fleet, Chris Nicholson, the world champion from Australia, leads after five races. Andy and Ian Budgen, of Britain, are seventh overall, three points behind the leaders, while Tim Robinson and Ian Walker are twelfth.

In the Solings, Andy Beadsworth has returned to the sort of erratic form that plagued him last year and that could allow Lawrie Smith to finish ahead of him at the British Olympic trials next year. Beadsworth was sixteenth after three races with Smith three places better off.

In Auckland, meanwhile, Mike Golding announced his withdrawal from the Around Alone Race because the damage suffered by *Team Group 4* after the grounding off Cape Rienga cannot be rectified in time for the start of the third leg on February 6.

"I am absolutely devastated at having to withdraw, but I believe it would be irresponsible for me to continue with the existing keel," Golding said.

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**RUGBY UNION:** BAISTER SEEKS TO ASSIST BOTH CLUBS AND COUNTRY WITH PROPOSED CONTROLS

## RFU considers move to reduce number of overseas players

By Mark Souster

ENGLAND'S leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) are considering a restriction on the number of foreign and non-England qualified players in the game. The move would benefit both sides by reducing unsustainable wage bills as well as assisting the development of a greater number of English players.

Brian Baister, the RFU chairman, said: "It would be a win-win situation." The only losers might be a host of southern-hemisphere players looking to join a "gold rush" to England after the World Cup later this year.

The move comes as the number of non-England qualified players in the Allied Dunbar Premiership rises to 160 — the equivalent of more than ten first teams — a situation that Clive Woodward, the England coach, has described as "alarming". There is an acceptance that action needs to be taken if the influx is to be stemmed and England are to prosper.

London Scottish head the list with 21 non-English players registered, followed by Harlequins with 19, with the suggestion that NEC, their sponsors, should really stand for "No English Chaps". London Irish, with 16, come next; Leicester and Richmond each have 14 on their books while West Hartlepool have 12 and Saracens 11. At the bottom are Wasps with six and Gloucester with four, both of whose respective directors of rugby, Nigel Melville and Richard Hill, are keen to promote English talent.

Whether such proposals would flout existing European employment law is unclear, but having taken legal advice, Twickenham is of the opinion that controls could be introduced. "We believe we could put something in place which, although not strictly legal, is not illegal if everybody agrees to it," Baister said. "There is a definite move towards that."

He added: "There will always be a club-country dilemma. The clubs are businesses and the RFU is trying to look after the interests of the international game. We have to find a middle ground." It has been suggested that the union should offer financial incentives to persuade clubs to agree to a new code. Another idea being floated is that international match fees of about £5,000 could go to the clubs rather than individuals.

At present only two foreign players, who by definition do not enjoy European Union workers' rights, are allowed in a match-day squad. By an anomaly, UK passport-holders are not automatically entitled to such rights. As part of the negotiations with the RFU to find an acceptable structure, Tom Walkinshaw, the owner of Gloucester and chairman of English First Division Rugby, is proposing that "foreign" should be redefined to preclude anyone not born in the EU: Australians with a British grandparent, for example.

However, as Terry Burwell, the RFU operations director, pointed out, that could create a problem as it would mean that Mike Catt and Tony Underwood, for example, would be classified as foreign players. But nobody, he said, argued with Walkinshaw's rationale. "What we have to do is come up with a formula that does not contradict existing contracts, but brings in some form of voluntary control."

Ironically, the possible formation of an Anglo-Welsh league could make controls easier to introduce. The Welsh Rugby Union already insists that 16 out of 22 players in any match squad must be qualified to play for Wales.

"But if we do see an Anglo-Welsh league, then a variation on that principle could be made to work," Burwell said, adding that policies adopted by other nations were also being studied.

## Kingsholm date is reward for Henley

HENLEY'S giant-killing at Bedford on Sunday has earned them a plum tie away to Gloucester in the fifth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup (David Hands writes).

The draw, made by Paul Wallace, the Saracens and Ireland prop, did not treat the lesser lights kindly — only Lydney will be at home, and that against Saracens, the holders — but Henley will have few qualms about visiting Kingsholm.

The Jewson National League first division club cheerfully acknowledge that they will not win the cup, but they will enjoy the prospect of playing at so famous a venue and they will do their best to cause Gloucester some discomfort on the way. They reckon they have already made £20,000 from their cup run and if the Gloucester public give them the respect that they deserve, that sum will be even healthier. "We haven't had too many Henleyites in the Shed," John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said, "but if they can go to Bedford and win, fair play to them. We will prepare properly."

By the time Henley come visiting over the weekend of January 30-31, Gloucester hope that Tom Beim will have rejoined their stable. Personal terms with the Sale wing, who was capped by England last summer, have been agreed and both clubs have settled on a transfer fee. If the move goes through, Beim will be available for their cup side.

The tie of the round is that between Northampton and London Irish at Franklin's Gardens. Northampton have been among the pacesetters for much of the season but were dramatically beaten at home by the Irish in the Allied Dunbar Premiership last Tuesday, being outscored five tries to one in a 32-8 defeat.

**CUP DRAW**

FIFTH ROUND: Northampton v London Irish; Wasps v Waterloo; London Scottish v Harlequins; Gloucester v Henley; West Hartlepool v Newcastle; Richmond v Exeter; Leicester v Leeds; Lydney v Saracens

□ Ties to be played January 30 and 31.

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**SKIING**

## British champion out on his own

From a Correspondent
in Tignes, France

ANDREW FRESHWATER, the defending champion, confirmed his ranking as favourite for the opening event of the British Land national championships, the men's downhill, with his second consecutive fastest training time here yesterday.

Freshwater, 25, made few errors despite the poor visibility, strong winds and driving snow to record 1min 21.44sec, which gave him a cushion of more than two seconds over Johnny Moulder-Brown, the British junior champion. "A lot can still happen but I'm pleased with the way I skied," he said.

Freshwater has suffered from an acute lack of downhill races in Europe this season as he builds up to the Alpine world championships in the United States at the end of this month, but has demonstrated in training the gulf that exists between him and the chasing pack of British downhill skiers.

No such gulf is apparent among the British women. While Tessa Pirie led both training runs and looks favourite to win the women's downhill title today, all her compatriots attacked the course with aggression and enthusiasm.

This was underlined by the performance of Danielle Bosher, 15, who yesterday skied a much more confident attacking run in only her second downhill race, finishing third among the Britons. Pirie's younger sister Amanda, in second place, was just under a second down on her sibling, who will have no margin for error today.

Alain Baxter and Emma Carrick-Anderson, the leading British slalom skiers, arrive later in the week to compete in the technical disciplines.

Baxter competes in both slalom and giant slalom, while Carrick-Anderson, who is fresh from winning an international race in Sweden, will be looking for a successful defence of her British women's slalom title.

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**AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** PARCELLS' CONTENDERS ON THE BRINK OF SUPER BOWL

## Jets the toast of Broadway

TOM OLMSCHEID

Cunningham, the veteran Minnesota Vikings quarterback, salutes the crowd after victory over the Arizona Cardinals

By Oliver Holt

TWO years ago, the New York Jets were a laughing stock. They had an expensive quarterback who couldn't throw, a wide receiver who openly mocked the rest of his team-mates and a coach who seemed more concerned with petty discipline than the fact that his team could only win one of their 16 regular season games. Things have changed now.

Rich Kotite, a coach who once interrupted a training session to tell me to stand up on the sidelines, is long gone. His place has been taken by Bill Parcells, the man who guided the New York Giants and the New England Patriots to the Super Bowl and now, in his second season in charge, stands on the brink of setting a National Football League record by leading a third side into the showpiece event of the sport.

It would have been hard to believe before he arrived, but on Sunday, Parcells took the Jets to within one step of the Super Bowl in Miami on January 31 when he led his team to a nail-biting 34-24 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars. It earned them a tie against the Denver Broncos next Sunday and the chance to claim the American Football Conference championship for only the second time.

The Jets have been revitalised by Parcells. In particular, he has instilled a fighting spirit in the team epitomised by that once unhappy wide receiver, Keyshawn Johnson.

In the bad old days of Kotite, Johnson wrote an autobiography called *Just Give Me The Damn Ball*. The Jets obeyed that command on Sunday, Johnson scored two touchdowns and the Jets held on to secure their game against John Elway and the Broncos.

In the other game on Sunday, the Minnesota Vikings, one of the surprise teams of this season, achieved their expected victory over the Arizona Cardinals to clinch their own tie against the Atlanta Falcons for the National Football Conference title in Minneapolis next Sunday. The Vikings, led by Randall Cunningham, the veteran quarterback, eased past the Cardinals 41-21 to claim their place among the last four post-season teams for the first time in 11 years.

"Minnesota have got an excellent football team on both sides of the ball," Vince Tobin, the Cardinals coach, said. "If you fall behind in a place like this it's hard to come back. We tried but we came up short. They are a formidable team."

Cunningham, who completed 17 of his 27 passes for 236 yards and three touchdowns, has made the most dramatic comeback of the season. Written off, he was given his chance back in September when the Vikings' first choice, Brad Johnson, was injured. Now he has made the position his own.

"My offensive line did an excellent job protecting me today," Cunningham said. "It's been a wonderful season for me so far, so much better than I could have hoped for, but there are still two games to go before I can say it was perfect."

□ Marty Schottenheimer resigned yesterday after ten years as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. The team disappointed this season, missing the play-offs.

**LAST FOUR**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NFC)
Minnesota Vikings v Atlanta Braves

AMERICAN CONFERENCE (AFC)
Denver Broncos v New York Jets

# Killick bids to prove himself a step ahead

## The growing trend in dance sport is to find a female Russian partner. Ruth Gledhill reports

Dance sport judges will be closely marking the moves of Paul Killick, of England, tomorrow as he takes to the floor with his new partner in the Star Ball at Grosvenor House in London. Killick is one of an increasing number of Britain's top male competitors opting to dance with partners from the former Soviet Union rather than England. Male dancers say they prefer the grit, determination and well-muscled stamina of partners from countries such as Russia and Ukraine.

Killick, 29, from Kent, is the most talented Latin dancer to emerge from England in several years and, having paired up with 21-year-old Karyna Kylkova, is bringing a renewed challenge to Bryan Watson and Karen Hardy, the British No 1 Latin couple.

Watson, born in South Africa, and the home-grown Hardy, have reigned supreme, on British soil at least, for the past two years. However, Killick and Kylkova, who teamed up six months ago and made a stunning debut at the US Open in Miami last September where they finished runners-up, are already challenging Watson and Hardy in the rumba and paso doble.

The pair also hope to challenge Watson and Hardy in the cha-cha-cha, where Killick believes that Watson, the taller dancer, is vulnerable. "His girl is not of the same quality as mine," he said. "In the long-term, that is going to make the difference."

Also climbing the world rankings with a Russian partner, and aiming to finish in the top six at the Star, will be Jonathan Wilkins, 28, of England. Competing under the American flag as that nation's professional standard champion, Wilkins, from Slough, teamed up three years ago with the statuesque blonde, Yekaterina Demidova.

"Our goal is to make the final at the Star," Wilkins, who finished fifth with Demidova, 21, at the world finals in Miami, said. "Katusha [Demidova] has been dancing since she was 5. She was also a top ice skater and was trained as a pianist as well. The Russian girls are just so beautiful and so dedicated. They have a special look that is very good on the floor, a certain competitive edge."

The trend is not confined to the professional field. After a series of unsuccessful partnerships with British girls, one of England's top amateur standard dancers, Craig Draper, from Sheffield, has teamed up with Irina Chuprakova, 16, from Russia.

Training sessions at Dance Options, Cheam, in Surrey have been highly encouraging. Draper, 23, tipped as a future British No 1, said: "Irina is probably the best ballroom dancer in Russia. She has so much natural ability, nothing is false about her."

> ‘Russians have an enormous desire to win’

Both Killick and Kylkova, and Wilkins and Chouprakova, will be going on to Bournemouth next week to dance against thousands of couples from around the world in the UK Open. In Russia alone, more than 100,000 couples are registered as amateur dancers, compared to about 2,000 in England. Determination to escape lives of poverty and hardship in the former communist bloc means that Russian dance sport competitors have learnt to excel in the same way as Russian gymnasts and ballet dancers. But because dance sport has only recently become an Olympic sport, the wealth of Russian talent has not been apparent until now.

Under Olympic rules, none of these partnerships will be able to take part when dance sport makes it onto the Olympic programme, either in 2004 or 2008. Olympic participation demands that both couples should be of the same nationality to represent their country. But in dance sport world championships, as with most other events in the sport at present, the rules are more flexible and couples are able to dance for the country of either member of the partnership.

Italy is another country where British women, in particular, are finding top-class male partners — and adds further proof that dancers are prepared to sacrifice a potential Olympic medal in order to find the right partner.

John Leach, editor of *Dance News*, which is promoting the UK championship next week, said: "The Russians have shown through their achievements in other sports and arts such as ballet and gymnastics a natural ability to transfer music into movement. They are producing an enormous number of couples, and girls in particular, of a high standard.

"People are attracted by the Russian temperament, their enormous desire to win. And now that there are fewer visa restrictions, the Russians are being considered as partners by men from every nation in the world, not just England."

TOSHIMASA UCHIDU



Killick and Kylkova have already made a great impact during their six months together



Wilkins, from Slough, and Demidova are hoping to finish in the top six at the Star Ball in London





BOWLS

# Holt adds a fresh chapter to his story of success

By David Rhys Jones

DAVID HOLT defeated Tony Allcock 3-7, 5-7, 7-5, 7-2, 7-3 in the preliminary round of the world indoor singles championship at Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk yesterday after taking a leaf out of the book of his opponent.

Allcock, unseeded, and desperate to collect some ranking points, appeared to be on his way to an easy straight-sets victory when he led 5-3 in the third set, only for Holt to remember a useful piece of advice that he had read in a book written by Allcock.

"Tony wrote that if what you normally do is not working for you, you should try something else," Holt said. "So, when Tony put his first bowl next to the jack, I decided to do something unorthodox, and ditched the jack."

A succession of bowls drawn delicately to the jack in the ditch left Holt holding one shot, and Allcock in a useful second position, when Holt delivered what he later described as a "wonder bowl".

"I thought I could ditch Tony's saving bowl for a count of three, but my own bowls somehow stayed on the green, and I scored a full house, which not only give me the set, but boosted my confidence."

Rarely can a game have been turned so decisively with a single bowl as Holt suddenly began to play like a winner. Two ends later he collected another full house and, although Allcock put up spirited resistance in the deciding set, Holt proved to be the master.

Holt's first victory over Allcock was 12 years ago when he astonished spectators at Worthing by beating the then world indoor champion, 21-5, in the final of the English outdoor singles championship. No one in the flat green game had heard of the precocious crown green bowler who, at 20 years of age, had the temerity to win not only the singles, but the pairs as well.

Since then, he has gone on to play for England indoors and out, and has beaten most of the top players in leading events. For good measure he is also the manager of the Blackpool Borough indoor bowls club.

David Corkill, who was a successful and popular competitor in the Eighties, has kept a low profile for the past few years, as he has given priority to his career as an administrator with the Northern *Ireland Health Service*.

Last November, however, he rolled back the years to win the UK singles title at Potters, and he continued in winning vein yesterday when he beat his fellow Ireland international, Jim Baker, who won the world title in 1984.

The first set took 68 minutes, the longest of the championships so far, and went to Corkill, 7-6. He took the second, which could have gone either way, by the same score and then mopped up the third, 7-0, in only four ends.

*Answers from page 43*

TZOLKIN

(c) The cycle of two hundred and sixty days constituting the sacred calendar of the Maya. "The Maya maintained two distinct counts. For religious purposes they used a sacred year (tzolkin) made up of thirteen twenty-day units."

STEAMIE

(a) Scottish dialect for a public wash-house. "It was the talk of the steamie, so to speak. It was a topic of conversation at the company."

YUAN

(a) The name of the Mongol dynasty established as rulers of all China by Kublai Khan in 1279 and in power until 1368. In Chinese the word means "first". It also is an obsolete unit of Chinese currency introduced in 1914, equal to 10 jiao. Kublai Khan named his kingdom Yuan in 1271, and the Yuan dynasty is often described as beginning in that year. "The wreckers had found, during their work, the foundations of a gate of the Yuan era."

SHAKUHACHI

(c) An end-blown Japanese flute, made of bamboo. From the Japanese words for measures of length. "The first half was devoted to traditional pieces, performed on the shakuhachi, a simple bamboo flute."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. Bb3! Qxb3; 2. Qg6+ Kh8; 3. Qxe8+ and wins easily.

TELEVISION CHOICE

# Same place, new drama

**Holby City**
*BBC1, 8.10pm*

For those who still think there are not enough medical dramas on television here is a spin-off from *Casualty* which gets to parts of Holby Hospital beyond accident and emergency. To make addicts of the parent show feel at home, there is a brief appearance from Derek Thompson's eternal Charlie and more on a case first aired in *Casualty*. But the undoubted star of *Holby City* is Anton Meyer, a heart surgeon from bell played by George Irving. He is as irascible and intimidating as James Robertson Justice in the *Doctor* films but without the jokes. "Don't do that unless you want him to die", he snaps at an underling in the operating theatre, while out of his earshot comparisons are made with Attila the Hun. Meyer apart this is standard hospital fare, but delivered less hectically than is usual with this genre.

**Airline**
*ITV, 8.30pm*

The material is familiar (difficult and angry passengers, harassed staff, delayed flights) but the airline and the characters are new. Welcome to easyJet, a brash, no-frills operation which offers cheap seats, ticketless booking and no in-flight meals. For the next eight weeks easyJet will be in the eye of the camera, as will its 32-year-old owner, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, a multi-millionaire who insists that his cabin staff wear uniforms in his favourite orange. He is setting off to Amsterdam in tonight's film, but has to endure the wrath of his own customers when the flight is held up. Meanwhile, Jane Boulton at the check-in desk is having to tell passengers that easyJet does not accept live animals. This is bad news for 15-year-old David, who has come all the way from Canada with three lobsters as a present for friends.

**Great Railway Journeys**
*BBC2, 9.30pm*

Michael Portillo is this week's traveller, tracing his family roots, and particularly those of his father, in Spain. The Spanish Civil War hangs heavily over the film, not only for its effect on Spain in the wider sense but for splitting families. While Portillo's father, a poet and university teacher, supported the Republican side before being forced into exile in England, all six of his brothers fought for Franco. A vast family reunion in Madrid suggests that wounds may have healed. Portillo starts his journey at the Alhambra in Granada and ends it in Salamanca where his father studied and taught. As with many films in this series the rail travel is mostly incidental, though Portillo introduces us to Spain's oldest working locomotive and the magnificent high speed train which glides between Seville and Madrid at up to 180 mph.

Professor David Southall in *Someone to Watch Over Me* (ITV, times vary)

**Someone to Watch over Me**
*ITV, 10.40pm*

A documentary calculated to disturb highlights a rare personality disorder which causes parents to injure, and sometimes kill, their children. Munchhausen Syndrome by Proxy was identified 20 years ago by the paediatrician, Sir Roy Meadow. The causes of the condition remain obscure, but the reason why parents abuse their children is to gain attention for themselves. Jane Harvey's report looks at cases in Britain and America and includes an interview with a woman serving ten years in prison for killing her daughter. The film also shows doctors using hidden cameras in hospital wards to record abusers in the act. Video surveillance is controversial. Supporters say it is essential for obtaining proof. Critics retort that it is a form of entrapment.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

**The New Recruit**
*Radio 4, 9.30am*

One of the best short programmes introduced in the Radio 4 revamp last year deservedly returns for another series. The idea is to bring together a newcomer and an old hand in a particular trade or calling each week. Today everyone who has ever moved house and watched anxiously while the removers navigated a flight of stairs carrying a Steinway grand or a Ming vase will nod knowingly as new recruit Julian McCormick compares notes with Howard Routledge, who began in the removal business 50 years ago. One encouraging fact that emerges is that removal men now bump thousands of books from one home to another whereas in 1950 Routledge often carried them in a single box.

**Afternoon Play: Bawcock's Eve**
*Radio 4, 2.15pm*

This is an absorbing dramatisation, based on a Cornish legend which I learnt about as a boy and have always regarded as having a Christian undertone, there being an implied link between Tom Bawcock (pronounced Bowcock) setting off to catch a boat full of pilchards to save the village of Mousehole from starvation and Christ's injunction to the fishermen in Galilee. Nick Darke's play brings a contemporary perspective to the tale, as we discover in the first minute ("She'll be back d'rectly — gone Spar"). The words are those of Gran (Barbara Jefford), who causes unexpected mayhem when she takes in a pregnant stranger, who, like Bawcock, has been led to Mousehole by a vision.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

**6.30am** Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session. Gene and Badly Drawn Boy in session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

**6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** *Vosburgh's Further Follies: An insight into the* world of entertainment with Dick Vosburgh **10.00** Susan Jeffreys Says Make It a Double (2/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

**5.00am** Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News with Annie Webster **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive. Including the FA Cup third-round replays **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller introduces coverage of the night's football action, including the FA Cup third-round replays **10.00** Late Night Live with Brian Hayes **1.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN

**6.30am** Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Mark Forrest **10.00** Richard Allen **1.00am** *James Merritt* **4.30** Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

**6.00am** Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley's Drivetime **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

**5.00am** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** Plays in Focus: Henry IV Part one **9.20** Frank Muir Remembered **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Short Story **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World *News* **7.05** *Discovery* **7.30** *Global Wildlife* **7.45** *Off the Shelf:* Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Watershed **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

**6.00am** Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of classical music **2.00** Concerto. Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No. 1 in B minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes information updates and Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John *Brunning* **7.00** *Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning* introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Debussy (Prelude a L'apres-Midi d'une Faune); Ravel (Ma Mere L'oye); Elgar (Symphony No 2 in E flat); Anonymous (Bolero 1830) **11.00** Mann at Night: Music and conversation through the early hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1 in B minor (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

**6.00am On Air** with Petroc Trelawny. Beethoven (Cello Sonata in C, Op 102 No 1); Lalo (Scherzo)
**9.00 Masterworks** with Peter Hobday. Anon (Two Renaissance Dances); Vaughan Williams (The Lark Ascending); Haydn (Piano Trio in F sharp minor, HXV 26); Liszt (Les Preludes)
**10.30 Artist of the Week: Emanuel Ax**
**11.00 Sound Stories: Feuds Corner** Peter Shaffer's dramatic account of the rivalry between Mozart and Antonio Salieri
**12.00pm Composer of the Week: *Rimsky-Korsakov***
**1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Paul Watkins, cello, Ian Brown, piano. Janacek (Pohodka); Poulenc (Cello Sonata); Martinu (Variations on a Slovak Theme) (r)
**2.00 The BBC Orchestras** BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Shura Cherkassky, piano, Chester Festival Chorus. Rimsky-Korsakov (Capriccio Espagnol); Stravinsky (Symphony of Psalms); Rubenstein (*Piano Concerto No 4*); Mussorgsky, orch Ravel (Pictures at an Exhibition)
**4.00 Voices** (r)
**4.45 Music Machine** Tommy Pearson talks to Terry Pratchett, who has written the words to a national anthem for his fictitious Discworld city of Ankh-Morpork
**5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty looks at the pros and cons of taking opera off the stage
**7.30 Performance on 3: Poulenc Centenary Gala** Penny Gore introduces a celebration of Francis Poulenc's achievement, featuring leading interpreters of his music
**9.40 Postscript: The Red Flag and the Red Mask** with Paul Neuberg (2/5)
**10.05 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** under Martyn Brabbins. Andrew Toovey (Red Icon)
**10.45 Night Waves** Richard Coles profiles the poet Geoffrey Hill
**11.30 Jazz Notes** Alyn Shipton presents the first of two programmes featuring Cleo Laine and the Alec and John Dankworth Generation Band in concert at the Stables, Wavendon
**12.00am Composer of the Week: Poulenc** (r)
**1.00 Through the Night** with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Baroque music from across Europe performed by Trio Sonnerie **2.35** Haydn, arr Salomon (Symphony No 96 in D) **3.00-5.00** Schools: Playtime **3.15** Time to Move **3.20** Let's Make a Story **3.50** Drama Workshop **4.10** In the News **4.30** Hop, Skip and Jump **5.00** Groneman (Flute Sonata in E minor) **5.35** Saint-Saens (Mon Coeur S'ouvre)

RADIO 4

**5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast**
**5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day**
***5.47 Farming Today*** *Rural Issues with Anna Hill*
**6.00 Today** Introduced by Winifred Robinson and James Naughtie
**8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Update on political developments
**9.00 No Triumph, No Tragedy** The television anchorwoman Bree Walker talks about the genetic disability affecting her hands and feet (2/6)
**9.30 The New Recruit** New series. See Choice (1/5)
**9.45 (LW) Daily Service** Director of music Ian Tracey
**9.45 (FM) Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and *Arthur Conan Doyle*** *Michael Williams reads* part two of Martin Booth's biography
**10.00 Woman's Hour** with Martha Kearney
**11.00 Nature: Insight** Howard Stableford explores the science behind death and ageing (r)
**11.30 The Galton and Simpson Radio Playhouse** A con-man's bluff is called. Keith Barron and June Whitfield star (3/4)
**12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
**12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours** Topical consumer news and investigations
**1.00 The World at One** With Nick Clarke
**1.30 Full Orchestra** Leading orchestras compete in a display of musical knowledge, presided over by Tommy Pearson
**2.00 The Archers** (r)
**2.15 Afternoon Play: Elemental Tales — Bawcock's Eve** by Nick Darke. Winter in Mousehole sees Gran taking in a mysterious lodger. With Barbara Jefford, Diana Berriman and Cassandra Holliday. See Choice
**3.00 The Exchange: 0870-010 0444** Eddie Mair assesses listeners' opinions of a topical issue
**3.30 Tales from the Village** Joel Kibazo attends a traditional Kenyan funeral (2/5) (r)
**3.45 This Sceptred Isle** Anna Massey narrates the Battle of Hastings (r)
**4.00 *The Learning Curve*** New series. The *Times* columnist Libby Purves discusses life-changing possibilities (1/10)
**4.30 Shop Talk** Business matters, presented by Heather Payton
**5.00 PM** with Clare English and Chris Lowe
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents** Comedy sketches with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verrinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb
**7.00 The Archers**
***7.15 Front Row*** The nightly arts programme, presented by John Wilson
**7.45 Lady Susan** Lavinia Murray's adaptation of Jane Austen's Lady Susan, Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
**8.00 True Colours — South Africa Today** What does the future hold for Johannesburg's white population?
**8.40 In Touch** Presented by Peter White
**9.00 Case Notes Special: No Issue** Tracy Logan *examines the future of fertility*
**9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy** (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight** with Anne McKenzie
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana** Juliet Stevenson reads part seven of Emile Zola's tale
**11.00 Late Night on 4: The Patrick and Maureen Maybe Music Experience** Guest Juliet Stevenson walks out on the bickering couple. With Peter Jones, Leonie Mellinger and John Ramm
**11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament** Political update
**11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures** Russell Davies presents the weekly guide to films and film-going (r)
**12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort** Kate Harper reads part two of Alison Lurie's novel
**12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service**

**FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1.** FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

**Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

# Four men in a comic league of their own

If you find the idea of a dementedly neurotic host and hostess giving their visiting nephew the house tour and explaining the bathroom rules with the ditty, "And then there's the towel: white for hands, brown for feet, green for torso, thighs and seat; in the cupboard, 'neath the stair, you'll find the red for pubic hair", both surreally funny but also realistic enough to strike a chord, then you're the sort of person who may have their next few Monday evenings sorted out watching **The League of Gentlemen** (BBC2). It is always hard to tell after just one episode of a new series, but already it has the feel of a cult show.

Written and performed by the 1997 Perrier Award winners Mark Gatiss, Steve Pemberton, Reece Shearsmith and Jeremy Dyson, *The League of Gentlemen* raises its head above much of the competition both through the weirdness of its comic vision, and by the care which has been taken with every last detail.

Tubbs and Edward — the deeply deranged couple who run the local shop of the fictional northern village of Royston Vasey in the middle of nowhere (at any rate, nowhere you'd want to go) — not only evince that tell-tale fidgetiness when unfamiliar out-of-towners enter their shop, the shelves are stacked with exactly the sort of useless or unappealing foods or trinkets that nobody apart from village shops ever sells.

Every stick of furniture — even the dizzying green and brown wallpapers — in the house of Auntie Val and Uncle Harvey, those neurotic hosts who are putting up their nephew Benjamin for a night before he begins his hiking holiday, seems to have been chosen to chime with the characters of the houseowners. Then there's the slightly strange taxi driver you always get when you pick up a cab from remote railway stations: this one's called Barbara and he's a transsexual who, instead of chuntering on about the new road-building projects, regales his passengers with the improbable details of his sex-change operation.

The scenes are full of incidental visual jokes (often grotesque) and the acting is good enough for you often to have to remind yourself that all the key parts are played by just three players (Dyson being the only one of the foursome who doesn't perform).

You wonder how Cilla Black and *Blind Date* have lasted so long until you see something like **Dishes** (Channel 4), in the first of which three men tried to win the heart of — or at least a date with — a 19-year-old student by titillating her palate. One produced a fried-egg sandwhich, another cooked haggis, the last created sticky toffee pudding. The pudding chef got to accompany the female student on a a date to an Italian restaurant. Danny Brown and Kate Thornton look after the girls and the boys, respectively, but have the desparate air of doctors in an Accident and Emergency department trying vainly to resuscitate a limp body.

**REVIEW**



Joe Joseph

Though barely half as long as *Dishes*, the short film *Yellow*, shown on **Shooting Gallery**, part of Channel 4's showcase for new directors, was at least 10 times as bewitching. Written and directed by Simon Beaufoy (who also wrote *The Full Monty*) and Billie Eltringham, *Yellow* was a taut, haunting film which exposed the tensions rupturing the relationships between a man, played by Ray Winstone, his lover and her young daughter as they drive off for a seaside picnic. An air of menace builds as the manipulative young girl — jealous of the new man on the end of her mother's fingertips — traps the well-meaning Winstone in a situation which ensures he'll not be bothering her or her mother any more.

Gathering the money to make even short magical films like these is a headache — certainly compared to sucking money out of Brussels if you happen to be a big farmer. In the second episode of his campaign to tweak the ear of British farming, Oliver Walston — who himself receives £180,000 a year in European Union farm subsidies — spent last night's **Against The Grain** (BBC2) ploughing the country for an answer to the question of why farmers who grow wheat that nobody wants are feather-bedded when, say, Sunderland's once busy shipyards are now all but silent because nobody wants their ships.

"Could you imagine any other industry benefiting from an intervention system?" he asks in his blunt, boyish manner, perching on an Eiger of EU-owned barley stockpiled in Yorkshire. "A dishwasher company that could not sell dishwashers, and instead of grain you had dishwashers piled up from floor to ceiling? We'd say it was crazy. But the people who would say it longest and loudest would be farmers, because there's a streak of hypocrisy in farmers. Before a businessman decides to produce either flowerpots or fluffy toys he first assesses market demand. I have never been bothered by those tedious details."

Walston — who farms 2,000 acres in Cambridgeshire — is not saying that small farmers, some of whom are barely surviving, don't deserve some government help. But his jaw gapes at how we have come to accept the Lewis Carroll world of the common agriculture policy as a sane way to run farming, especially when farmers already enjoy other benefits such as zero rates on land, inheritance tax breaks, and being bailed out by taxpayers after the BSE crisis.

Like many other policies, the CAP was drafted with good intentions: but — as with feeding cows sheep protein — it has all gone creepily wrong. Anybody who has reservations about jumping straight into the euro should be watching this series.

## BBC1

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (20378)
**7.00 BBC Breakfast News** (T) (47947)
**9.00 Kilroy** (T) (8705893)
**9.45 The Vanessa Show** (T) (5178763)
**10.55 News;** Weather (T) (7044657)
**11.00 Real Rooms** (7054034)
**11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (T) (7024893)
**11.55 News;** Weather (T) (1257589)
**12.00pm Call My Bluff** (18386)
**12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home** (43560)
**1.00 One O'Clock News** (T) (40034)
**1.30 Regional News;** Weather (86738893)
**1.40 Neighbours** Lance convinces Bill to place a bet (T) (65425909)
**2.05 Ironside** Threats to a parole officer arouse suspicion when it turns out the man is particularly hard on drug cases. William Shatner guest stars (r) (7701183)
**2.55 Going for a Song** (8603638)
**3.20 The Weather Show** Stories about the weather (T) (2034589)
**3.25 Children's BBC:** Playdays (7178198) **3.45** The Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (9103541) **3.55** Hububb (8537522) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (2637283) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (1760725) **5.00** Newsround (5507454) **5.10** See How They Run (6647909)
**5.33 Rewind** (T) (981183)
**5.35 Neighbours** (r) (T) (144102)
**6.00 Six O'Clock News;** Weather (T) (251)
**6.30 Regional News Magazine** (831)
**7.00 Holiday** Jill Dando samples the delights of Tunisia, while Michael McNally takes a cruise around Florida and the Bahamas. Plus, Carol Smillie brushes up her cookery skills at the Scottish Chefs' Centre in Glasgow (T) (4928)
**7.30 EastEnders** Tensions threaten to disrupt Tiffany's funeral (T) (943473)



Tense times during surgery in the new medical drama (8.10pm)

**8.10** CHOICE **Holby City** New series. Life on the wards of Holby City Hospital. Surgeons Meyer and Jordan race against time to carry out a transplant operation (T) (457386)
**9.00 Nine O'Clock News;** Regional News; Weather (T) (8837)
**9.30 Paddington Green** The bus conductor Danny Green comes into conflict with his bosses (T) (30096)
**10.00 Patriot Games (1992)** FILM A former CIA agent foils a terrorist attack on a member of the Royal Family while holidaying in Britain — only to become a target himself. Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Bean. Directed by Phillip Noyce (T) (399541)
**11.55 Silent Motive (1992)** FILM A Hollywood screenwriter is accused by a mystery man of stealing his ideas. Thriller, with Patricia Wettig. Directed by Lee Philips (T) (175522)
**1.20am Weather** (4840665)
**1.25 BBC News 24** (31243771)

## BBC2

**7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show:** The Little Polar Bear (9643611) **7.05** Teletubbies (2070928) **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2363015) **7.50** Blue Peter (2367831) **8.15** Taz-Mania (5772473) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8275763) **8.50** Oakie Doke (8271947) **9.00** German Globo (7325980) **9.05** Hallo aus Berlin (7324251) **9.10** Working It Out (7188454) **9.25** Techno (6530034) **9.45** Numbertime (8378270) **10.00** Teletubbies (90137) **10.30** Watch (5944454) **10.45** Science Zone (3259589) **11.05** Space Ark (9722299) **11.15** Megamaths (1594473) **11.35** Words and Pictures (2367676) **11.50** History File (2344725) **12.10pm** English Express (4003725) **12.30** Working Lunch (41102) **1.00** Oakie Doke (73716638)
**1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour** (2524980)
**2.10 Sporting Greats** With the swimmer Duncan Goodhew (22252676)
**2.40 News;** Weather (T) (8088541)
**2.45 Westminster** (T) (9920170)
**3.25 News;** Weather (T) (2024102)
**3.30 Birds with Tony Soper** (r) (8147657)
**3.50 Till the Clouds Roll By (1946)** FILM Musical biopic of the composer Jerome Kern; Robert Walker and Judy Garland star. Directed by Richard Whorf (28829473)
**6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air** (r) (257638)
**6.25 Heartbreak High** (T) (664893)
**7.10 The O Zone** (T) (458102)
**7.30 From the Edge** Includes a call for better access to sporting stadiums (T) (657)
**8.00 University Challenge** Magdalen College v the Open University (T) (1218)
**8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey** The chef ventures to the Cornish coast where he cooks Turbot Valee d'Auge (T) (8025)
**9.00 Morecambe and Wise** Quips and sketches (r) (T) (350183)

Michael Portillo travels through Spain in search of his roots (9.25pm)

**9.25** CHOICE **Great Railway Journeys** Michael Portillo reveals his Spanish roots as he travels from Granada to Salamanca (T) (254947)
**10.15 Shooting the Past** (T) (905102)
**10.20 The Whitbread Announcement** Juliet Morris announces the winners of the Whitbread Book Awards (993367)
**10.30 Newsnight** (T) (853928)
**11.15 Trial by Jury** A man is accused of murdering his wife (2/3) (T) (997096)
**11.55 Weather** (153980)
**12.00 Despatch Box** Political news (77329)
**12.30am BBC Learning Zone:** Open University: Sickle Cell — A Lethal Advantage **1.00** A Thread of Quicksilver **1.30** Uncertain Principles **2.00** Schools: Teaching Today — Getting Started with ICT/Teaching Today Plus — ICT **4.00** Languages: Get By in Spanish — Part One **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves 21 — Dynamic Job Search **5.45** Open University: Reading the Landscape **6.35** A Source of Inspiration

## HTV

**5.30am ITN Morning News** (14270)
**6.00 GMTV** (6837218)
**9.25 Trisha** (T) (3601589)
**10.30 This Morning** (T) (24278299)
**12.15pm HTV News** (T) (9495367)
**12.30 ITN Lunchtime News** (T) (45928)
**1.00 Shortland Street** Ruth transforms Kennedy's (35102)
**1.30 Home and Away** Donald and Marilyn clash over Sam (T) (44299)
**2.00 The Jerry Springer Show** Outrageous American talk show (T) (2935473)
**2.45 Supermarket Sweep** (T) (506522)
**3.15 ITN News Headlines** (T) (2022744)
**3.20 HTV News** (T) (2029657)
**3.25 CITV:** Mopatop's Shop (2002980) **3.35** Rosie and Jim (8542454) **3.50** The Wombles (9195522) **4.00** Cow and Chicken (9627676) **4.25** Mike and Angelo (9382116) **4.50** How 2 (9208928)
**5.10 A Country Practice** Hugo falls madly in love (2505706)
**5.40 ITN Early Evening News** (T) (742893)
**5.59 HTV Crimestoppers** (995386)
**6.00 Home and Away** (r) (T) (244164)
**6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight** (T) (954928)
**6.25 WEST: HTV Weather** (330560)
**6.30 The West Tonight** (T) (299)
**7.00 Emmerdale** Kim and Steve go on trial (T) (9096)
**7.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** Big-prize game show (T) (75034)



A look at the everyday lives of the easyJet staff (8.30pm)

**8.30** CHOICE **Airline** New series following the trials and tribulations of staff and customers of the no-frills schedule airline easyJet (T) (7251)
**9.00 Peak Practice** Joanna is offered a job at the Beeches and Alice has a major dilemma on her hands. Medical drama, starring Gary Mavers and Haydn Gwynne (2/13) (T) (6251)
**10.00 News at Ten;** Weather (T) (32693)
**10.30 HTV News and Weather** (T) (145541)
**10.40** CHOICE **Someone to Watch Over Me** The effects of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (T) (978676)
**11.40 An Innocent Man (1989)** FILM Family man Tom Selleck is framed by two corrupt narcotics officials desperate to cover up their own mistakes. Gritty thriller, co-starring F. Murray Abraham. Directed by Peter Yates (T) (52939096)
**1.50am The Haunted Fishtank** Irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (6202085)
**2.20 Highlander** Female Immortal Amanda makes an unwelcome return, hotly pursued by crooks determined to get their hands on a set of counterfeiting plates she's acquired (r) (6623139)
**3.15 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (45394)
**3.45 Football Extra** Football League highlights (r) (8284232)
**4.40 Soundtrax** (88555058)
**4.50 ITV Nightscreen** Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (6428435)

## CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
**12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather** (6011015)
**1.00 Headliners** (35102)
**1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (9033270)
**2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (507251)
**3.20-3.25 Central News** (2029657)
**5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (2505706)
**6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather** (954928)
**10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather** (145541)
**4.35am Central Jobfinder '99** (5402023)
**5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (4275481)

### [illegible]

As HTV West except.
**12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather** (9495367)
**12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6029034)
**1.00 Emmerdale** (35102)
**1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (9033270)
**2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (507251)
**3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather** (2029657)
**5.08 Birthday People** (8626164)
**5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (2505706)
**6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (53947)
**10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather** (145541)

### MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
**12.15-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather** (9495367)
**5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (2505706)
**6.00 Meridian Tonight** (947)
**6.30-7.00 Grass Roots Special** (299)
**10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather** (145541)
**5.00-5.30am Freescreen** (62058)

### ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** ([illegible]) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** ([illegible]) **1.00-1.30 Upshot!** (r) (35102) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (2505706) **6.23 Anglia Weather** (348589) **6.25-7.00 Anglia News** (T) (954928) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** ([illegible]6725) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (145541)

### [illegible]

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (21806183) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47035218) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (41044299) **9.20 What the Papers Said** (72555522) **9.30 Eureka!** (89663218) **9.45 Eritrea** (89651473) **10.00 The Number Crew** (71888541) **10.10 TVM** (35918763) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (35897270) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (39121183) **11.00 First Edition** (18175928) **11.15 Stage One** (18158251) **11.30 Powerhouse** (24984473) **12.00pm Bewitched** (16616928) **12.30 Sesame Street** (r) (38601102) **1.00 Planed Plant;** (T) Brynseren (54458096) **1.10 Clwc** (59726096) **1.20 Deri Deg: Y Picnic** (59715980) **1.30 Binky Can't Fly** (69965725) **1.40 FILM: The Mark of Zorro** (T) (44388247) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56398909) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56300744) **4.30 Dishes** (56306928) **5.00 Planed Plant** (89880378) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56380980) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69269270) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95978367) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (91782414) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56307657) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (97985742) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (91782469) **9.00 Rat** (T) (77673742) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54158270) **10.35 Mayday** (36445560) **11.35 Short Stories** (T) (69873034) **12.05am The Real Holiday Show** (5/8) (T) (57164955) **12.35 Cutting Edge Special: Trimble** (T) (45059329) **1.35 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00am Sesame Street** (94928)
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (30657)
**9.00 Schools: Science in Focus** (6513367) **9.20** What the Papers Said (7321164) **9.30** Eureka (8375183) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8370638) **10.00** The Number Crew (4818367) **10.10** TVM (9583928) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9595763) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (5967305) **11.00** First Edition (6507251) **11.15** Stage One (6520102)
**11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (4522)
**12.00 Sesame Street** (82116)
**12.30pm Bewitched** (T) (36270)
**1.00 Pet Rescue** (r) (T) (33744)
**1.30 Roots to Success** (T) (30467855)
**1.50 Until They Sail (1957)** FILM Four sisters fall for American marines based in New Zealand. Starring Paul Newman. Directed by Robert Wise (T) (61659725)
**3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (305)
**4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (812)
**4.30 Countdown** (T) (1754164)
**4.55 Ricki Lake** (T) (4865522)
**5.30 Pet Rescue** (T) (676)
**6.00 King of the Hill** (r) (T) (589)
**6.30 Home Improvement** Tim's refusal to break his routine makes everyone's life impossible (T) (315251)
**6.55 Planet Pop** (741812)
**7.00 Channel 4 News;** Weather (T) (606164)
**7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: The Very Models** (T) (235096)
**8.00 Brookside** Lindsey discovers Peter's whereabouts (T) (6386)
**8.30 Classic Aircraft** Exploration of the new roles found for old aircraft (T) (5893)
**9.00 Rat** Mark Lewis' award-winning film exploring man's struggle to control the world's rat population (T) (4893)
**10.00 Father Ted** A boring priest descends on Craggy Island (r) (T) (347657)
**10.35 Bob and Margaret** Bob's cousin pays a visit (T) (173183)



Marie Leith takes to the ring for her first professional bout (11.05pm)

**11.05 Short Stories** New documentary series. A pair of female boxers as they travel to Scotland for their first international fight (T) (902928)
**11.40 Dope Sheet** Animation (T) (281102)
**12.00 Beyond Dope Sheet Introduction** An evening of animation (9738058) **12.10am** War Story (5968110) **12.15** Morris Jelly House of Fashion (6766042) **12.30** His Mother's Voice (7878874) **12.50** A is for Autism (1928706) **1.00** Going Equipped (9829348) **1.10** Some Protection (9818232) **1.20** Pro and Con (9732868) **1.35** Glassy Ocean Animation (7557972)
**2.00 Britannia Hospital (1982)** FILM Comedy about a hospital beset by disaster while preparing to celebrate its 500th anniversary. Malcolm McDowell and Leonard Rossiter star. Directed by Lindsay Anderson (T) (16077)
**4.00 Schools: TOPI 2** (14058)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00am 5 News and Sport** Current events (7933473)
**7.00 WideWorld** Part three. How the peacock developed its magnificent train (3/10) (r) (T) (9038676)
**7.30 Milkshake!** (1805639)
**7.35 Wimzie's House** (r) (9769589)
**8.00 Havakazoo** (r) (1192980)
**8.30 Dappledown Farm** (1191251)
**9.00 Weather Front** (r) (1115831)
**9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (6551725)
**10.20 Sunset Beach** Gabi gets more intimate with Antonio (T) (2159473)
**11.10 Leeza** (r) (2046299)
**12.00 5 News at Noon** (T) (1102367)
**12.30pm Family Affairs** Dave thinks he's off the hook (r) (T) (9978096)
**1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** Sheila hopes for a reconciliation (T) (9037947)
**1.30 The Roseanne Show** (9977367)
**2.00 100 Per Cent Gold** (6398367)
**2.30 Good Afternoon** (4580831)
**3.30 Lies Boys Tell (1994)** FILM A dying man takes his son on a cross-country trip of self-discovery to the place of his birth. Heart-warming family drama, starring Kirk Douglas. Directed by Tom McLoughlin (T) (9664522)
**5.20 Sunset Beach** Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6113251)
**6.00 100 Per Cent** Computer-generated quiz (5259676)
**6.30 Family Affairs** Jamie leaves home (T) (5240928)
**7.00 5 News;** Weather (T) (6392183)
**7.30 Champions of the Wild** The work of the Santa Rosa National Park in Costa Rica, which was set up to provide a safe-haven for homeless monkeys (T) (5239812)
**8.00 Perfect Babies** New series. Developments in genetic engineering and the ethical dilemmes posed if prospective parents are offered the possibility of selecting the genetic make-up of their babies. Pioneering work to determine the sex of a child and eradicate hereditary disease is now accepted practice but what are the implications for humanity if research is not regulated? (T); 5 News Update (5560980)
**9.00 Bat 21 (1988)** FILM Fact-based Vietnam War drama, starring Gene Hackman as an ageing Army official shot down behind enemy lines just as his own forces are about to carpet-bomb the area. Danny Glover co-stars as the pilot assigned to guide him to safety from the air. Directed by Peter Markle (T); 5 News Update (5570367)
**11.00 Two** Gus returns to Seattle for Sarah's funeral, only to find himself at the centre of an ambush and face to face with Edward and the barrel of a gun (2103183)
**11.55 The Jack Docherty Show** Chat and music (1702831)
**12.35am Live and Dangerous** Action from round five of the Nascar Winter Heat (77906955)
**3.45 Asian Football Show** Weekly round-up (7506961)
**4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** Eddie risks his life to rescue Sonia and Myra realises the odds are against her (3065348)
**5.30 100 Per Cent** (r) (2180233)

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## PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

### SKY ONE

**7.00am** Count Duckula (83763) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (46034) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (56560) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (66657) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (68454) **11.00** Guilty! (88218) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (71367) **1.00** Mad About You (82034) **1.30** Jeopardy (84831) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (46744) **3.00** Jenny Jones (85725) **4.00** Guilty! (98580) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5299) **6.00** Married — With Children (2831) **6.30** Dream Team (9183) **7.00** The Simpsons (6928) **7.30** The Simpsons (8367) **8.00** Rescue Medics (5676) **8.30** Coppers (4183) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (36218) **10.00** Greece Uncovered (39305) **11.00** Dream Team (98819) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (38096) **12.30am** Highlander (29416) **1.30** Long Play (5008348)

### SKY BOX OFFICE

**Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.** To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
**Volcano (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
**Excess Baggage (1997)**
**GI Jane (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
**George of the Jungle (1997)**
**Starship Troopers (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
**Crash (1996)**

### FILMFOUR

**6.00pm Pickup on South Street (1953)** (6056763) **7.30 Forty Guns (1957)** (3340725) **9.00** The Typewriter, the Rifle and the Movie Camera (7398560) **10.00 The Naked Kiss (1964)** (6035270) **11.30 Fixed Bayonets! (1951)** (1531218) **1.05am Pierrot-le-Fou (1965)** (5008965) **2.50 Cal (1984)** (4508787) **4.30 L'Atalante (1934)** (9644694) **6.00** Close

### SKY PREMIER

**6.00am Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown (1977)** (72201) **8.00 Old Yeller (1957)** (35638) **10.00 Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (1984)** (94218) **12.00pm** The Directors: The Films of Norman Jewison (97305) **1.00** Hollywood Buzz (73725) **2.00 Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown (1977)** (28299) **4.00 Old Yeller (1957)** (1473) **6.00 Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (1984)** (31763) **8.00 The Arrival (1996)** (79180) **10.00 Broken Arrow (1996)** (201812) **11.50 Primal Fear (1996)** (2381251) **2.00am Destiny Turns on the Radio (1995)** (855049) **3.45 The Glass Cage (1996)** (61059416)

### SKY MOVIEMAX

**5.35am Heart Full of Rain (1997)** (88787893) **7.10 American Hot Wax (1978)** (11579473) **9.00 To Brave Alaska (1996)** (40560) **11.00 Shootdown (1988)** (24744) **1.00pm American Hot Wax (1978)** (51676) **3.00 Time to Say Goodbye? (1997)** (32812) **5.00 Shootdown (1988)** (40909) **7.00 To Brave Alaska (1996)** (65367) **9.00 Second Chance (1997)** (11909) **11.00 The Killing Grounds (1997)** (445454) **12.35am Poison Ivy: The New Seduction (1997)** (457955) **2.10 Call Me (1988)** (931874) **3.45 Patty Hearst (1988)** (569782)

### SKY CINEMA

**4.00pm Dragnet (1954)** (8014980) **6.00 The Great Lover (1949)** (7492893) **8.00 Three Hours to Kill (1954)** (7404638) **10.00** 100 Years — 100 Movies: Beyond the Law (8623893) **10.55 The French Connection (1971)** (72718657) **12.40am The Legend of Hell House (1973)** (9334706) **2.15 Beyond the Clouds (1995)** (4547874) **4.00 The Black Room (1935)** (5816874)

### TNT

**9.00pm Scaramouche (1952)** (36824638) **11.15 The Night of the Iguana (1964)** (77542744) **1.30am Honky Tonk (1941)** (67031868) **3.30 The Naked Spur (1953)** (84833697) **5.00** Close

### SKY SPORTS 1

**7.00am** Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** H2O **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** You're On Sky Sports! **10.00** League Review **11.00** Triathlon **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** Football **2.00** Spanish Football **4.00** Total Sport **4.30** World Windsurfing **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Live Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **10.45** Inside Scottish Football **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00am** You're On Sky Sports! **12.30** Badminton **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

### SKY SPORTS 2

**7.00am** Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** World Windsurfing **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** World Motor Sport **1.00pm** Max Power **2.00** Rafting **3.00** World Motor Sport **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Triathlon **8.00** Badminton **10.00** Fastrax **10.30** Rafting **11.30** Figure Skating **1.30am** Sports Centre **1.45** Fastrax **2.15** Sports Unlimited **3.15** Sports Centre **3.30** Live International Cricket

### SKY SPORTS 3

**12.00pm** Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** A to Z of Motor Sport **2.30** Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes **3.30** Total Sport **4.00** Monday Night Football Special **5.30** Fastrax **6.00** Rafting **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** Figure Skating **10.00** Boxing Superbouts **11.00** Olympic Series. Road to Nagano **11.30** Close

### EUROSPORT

**7.30am** Rally **8.00** Live Women's Cross-Country Skiing **9.00** Live Alpine Skiing **9.45** Live Cross-Country Skiing **12.00pm** Live Alpine Skiing **12.45** Eurogoals **2.15** Cross-Country Skiing **4.00** Alpine Skiing **5.00** Snowboarding **6.00** Eurogoals **7.30** Live Boxing **9.30** Rally **10.00** Football **11.00** Strongman **12.00am** Rally **12.30** Close

### UK GOLD

**7.00am** Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Angels **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** Red Dwarf IV **9.40** This Life **10.30** NYPD Blue **11.35** The Bill **12.35am** Spender **1.35** Ivanhoe **2.30** Live at Jongleurs **3.00** Screenshop

### GRANADA PLUS

**6.00am** Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** Second Thoughts **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Brian Conley Show **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors



Follow the bizarre escapades of the ever-adventurous family in *The Wild Thornberrys* (Nickelodeon, 8am)

### DISNEY CHANNEL

**6.00am** Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** Quack Pack **2.30** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00** FILM: My Date with the President's Daughter (1997) **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman **12.00am** Close

### FOX KIDS NETWORK

**6.00am** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close

### NICKELODEON

**6.00am** Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

### TROUBLE

**7.00am** USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest! **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempest! **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Rush **6.45** Bangs **7.00** USA High

### BRAVO

**8.00pm** The A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Scary Sex **10.30** Erotic Senses **11.00 FILM: Best of the Best (1989)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.30** Scary Sex **2.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.30** Cops **3.00 FILM: Jack's Back (1988)** **5.00** L.A.P.D. **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

### PARAMOUNT COMEDY

**7.00pm** Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** News Radio **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Vic Reeves Big Night Out **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Tibs and Fibs **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

### THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

**SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY**

**7.30am** Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Lexx **10.00** Silver Bullet (1985) **11.50** Sci-Focus **12.00am** Dark Skies **1.00 FILM: Fear No Evil (1981)** **2.50** Sci-Focus **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

### HOME & LEISURE

**6.00am** Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country — Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** Wood Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

### DISCOVERY

**4.00pm** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Flightline **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Hunters **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** The Death Zone **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Yukon Quest **11.00** The U-Boat War **12.00am** Antarctica **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Flightline **2.00** Close

### ANIMAL PLANET

**1.00pm** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** Breed All About It **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World. Cape Horn **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia. Resourceful Rainforest **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises. Torres Del Paine **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets Special **12.00am** Close

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**7.00pm** Veterinarians and Hospitals **7.30** Civil War Games **8.00** The Rhino War **9.00** Natural Born Killers: On the Edge of Extinction **10.00** Inside NFL Films: The Idolmakers **11.00** On the Edge: Into the Arctic Unknown **12.00am** The Shark Files: Operation Shark Attack

### HISTORY

**4.00pm** The World at War. On Our Way **5.00** The Frigates **6.00** The Age of Emperors **7.00** The Odessa File

### CARLTON FOOD

**9.00am** Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Green Gourmet **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Kitchen College **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30** Surprise Chefs **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Winter Nosh **3.30** Kitchen College **4.00** Rustie's Real Cooks **4.30** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **5.00** Close

### LIVING

**6.00am** Tiny and Crew **6.20** Phiben the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Del Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00** Liz: The Elizabeth Taylor Story **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

### ZEE TV

**5.00am** Punjabi Folk Song **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthap Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Saiaab **9.00** Himalaya's Haar **10.00** Dhoop Mein Saw **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Punjabi Movie: Dushmani Di Aag** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Campus **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** Liberty 1-10 **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Jee Sahab **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News Bulletin **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Zee Addicts **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **12.00am** News Bulletin **12.30** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Urdu Movie: Anmol Mohabbat** **4.30** Lolly-Pop



**RACING 43**
Whipping boys face further backlash

# SPORT

**DANCE SPORT 46**
Killick steps into limelight with Russian partner



TUESDAY JANUARY 12 1999

## Veteran guides England to second victory with three balls to spare

# Fairbrother revives glory days

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BRISBANE

*BRISBANE (Sri Lanka won toss): England beat Sri Lanka by four wickets*

THIS time last year Neil Fairbrother was lost to international cricket. The batsman, who excelled in the 1992 World Cup, when England reached the final in Melbourne, and he made a hard-fought fifty, was *no longer the same player. He* should never have been taken anywhere near the sub-conti*nent four years later, for the* next tournament, and seemed to be winding down towards a cosy retirement.

The wheel has turned once more, and "Harvey" has turned with it. Suddenly, at 35, he has become a fitter man. He cannot swoop and throw as once he did, in his prime, but he is no longer fearful of hearing his hamstrings snap when he chases the ball. And

ICC's power surge........44

he is batting as well as ever in limited-overs cricket, as an unbeaten innings of 67 proved here. Without it, England would have stood no chance of beating Sri Lanka.

Some time in the past five years, and it is hard to say just when, the young man in a hurry transformed himself into a senator. *When the question* was put to him afterwards, he said: "If it is to be the grand old man, I don't mind." I bet he doesn't. Recalled to the England one-day team in Bangladesh three months ago, when he made a half century against South Africa, the eventual winners of that mini-World Cup, he must feel that every day is a glorious adventure.

He still has explosive strokes, and he found one to claim a straight six off Jayasuriya three overs from the end, with 16 runs wanted, but he cuts a more sober figure these days. Older, maybe wiser, but still capable of sprinting 20 yards swiftly and often, he is content to push, nudge, and squirt out the runs, one a ball if possible.

He earned his runs in full against Muralitharan, the freakish off spinner, who will join him at Lancashire next summer, after the World Cup. *Muralitharan, tweaking away* merrily, bamboozled three men as England chased 208 for victory. Alleyne, who somehow added 57 with Fairbrother for the fifth wicket, had no idea how to play him.

It was a spectacle that evoked pity and humour in equal measure until Alleyne was stumped down the leg side from the last ball of Muralitharan's tenth over when Tony McQuillan, the third umpire, gave a *decision* that could easily have gone the batsman's way. Alleyne had collect*ed 18 runs from the 50 balls he* faced, but even he couldn't say where he found them.

Hick, who struck a skyer almost as high as the Post Office Tower, was the first of Muralitharan's wickets, as he advanced to drive him as hard as he could. Kaluwitharana, the excitable wicketkeeper, followed the ball in flight *towards the bowler only to* retreat and take it, rather well as it turned out, directly over the bails he had left behind.

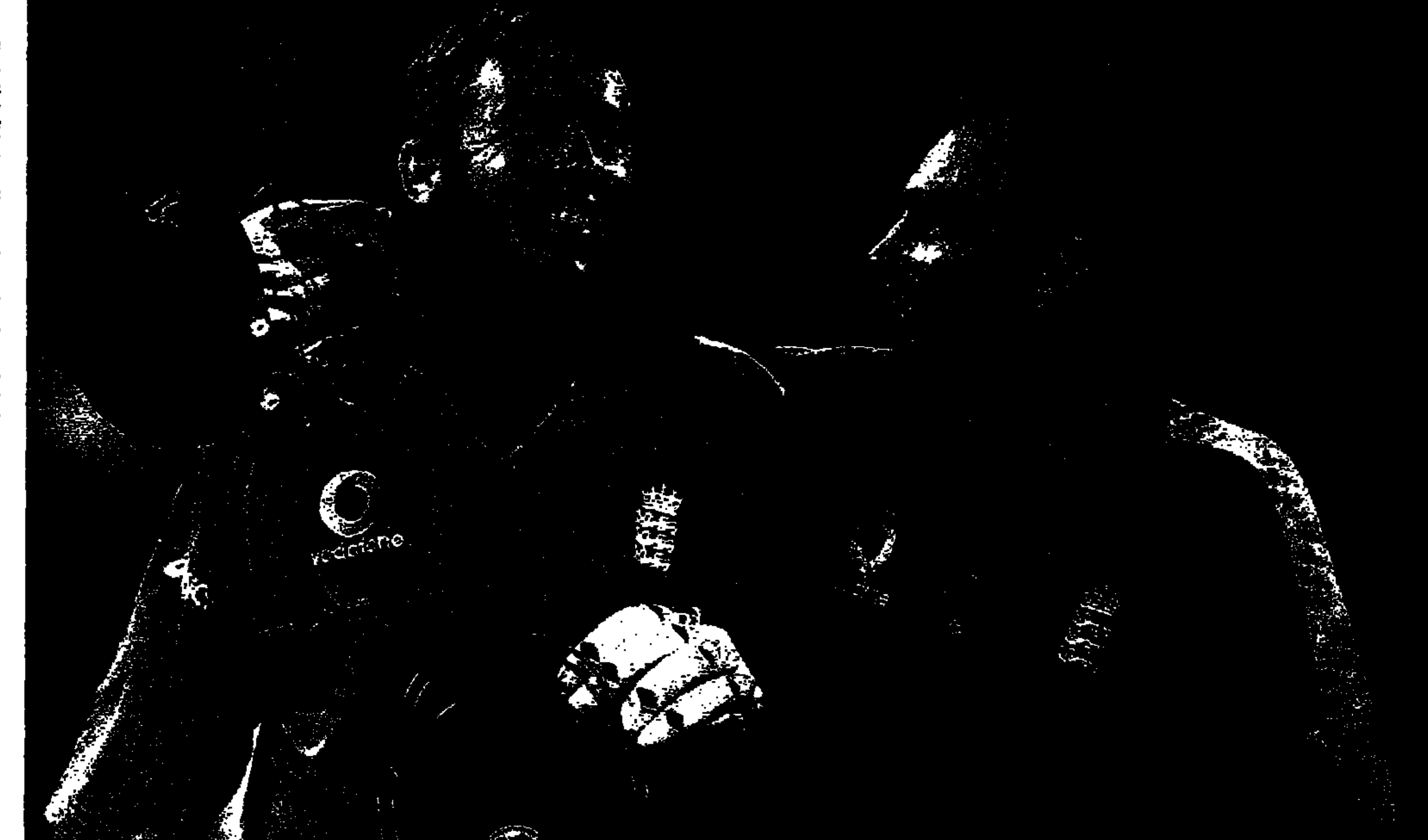
With the first ball of his next over Muralitharan beat Hollioake all ends up, drifting the ball through the batsman's defence, though the gate was big enough to admit a herd of cattle and a few stray sheep. Hol*lioake walked off crest-fallen.* He had bowled well earlier for his own three wickets, and is a proud man. He has the knack *of making decent runs in these* matches, and is an important player in this side, balancing the team at No 6 or, on this occasion, at No 5, which is, in fairness, one place too high. His dismissal made the score 130 for four and for a time all that Fairbrother and Alleyne could do was wave to each other, hoping there would be the *occasional poor ball to put* away. There were none. Instead they scampered singles, and preserved the six wickets *England still had.* When Alleyne went, Ealham followed at once, and it took some sensible *batting* from Croft, who squeezed out runs through mid-wicket, to win the match with three balls to spare.

Sri Lanka made a fair start after Ranatunga won the toss. A thigh strain deprived them of the wonderful De Silva, and *he may miss the whole tournament*, but even without him there is plenty of scope in this batting order. Fortunately for England, Gough removed Jayasuriya in his first over, Hick holding a simple catch at second slip.

Kaluwitharana, Atapattu and, latterly, Tillekeratne all passed fifty but the innings never gathered the sort of momentum that Sri Lanka wanted. Hollioake saw to that, taking three good wickets, after *Kaluwitharana had swept* Croft to deep square leg. Headley, the catcher, was the only one of six bowlers not to take a wicket. Mullally, the matchwinner on Sunday, again bowled well and Croft gave the batsmen *little to hit.*

Eventually, England got the runs they needed and Alec Stewart was pleased with his team's spirit, and their performance. "It's hard to win two games back-to-back in temperatures like that," the *England captain said.* "We may not have won the Ashes, but we're looking forward to this series, and have made a good start." Fairbrother supplied his own comments. Looking back to the last World *Cup, and ahead to the one that* starts in May, he thought "the roles have been defined, strategies have been laid out, and teams have been picked with them in mind. We know where we are going, and the spirit is very good."

□ *The Times one-day series* hotline — 0891 881461. Reports, updates and commentary. *Calls cost 50p per minute.*



Croft, left, and Fairbrother leave the field in jubilation after their partnership had taken England past the Sri Lanka total. Photograph: Ian Waldie

### FULL SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

Sri Lanka won toss

**SRI LANKA**

S T Jayasuriya c Hick b Gough.....1
(2 balls)
†R S Kaluwitharana
c Headley b Croft.....58
(61 balls, 5 fours)
M S Atapattu b Hollioake.....51
(90 balls, 2 fours)
*A Ranatunga c and b Hollioake.....0
(2 balls)
H P Tillekeratne not out.....50
(86 balls, 2 fours)
R S Mahanama
c Knight b Hollioake.....2
(6 balls)
U D U Chandana
c Fairbrother b Ealham.....23
(32 balls, 1 four)
W P U J C Vaas b Mullally.....5
(16 balls)
G P Wickremasinghe not out.....7
(5 balls, 1 four)
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 6).....10
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs, 208min).....207

*M Muralitharan and D N T Zoysa did not bat.*

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Kaluwitharana 1), 2-99 (Atapattu 36), 3-102 (Atapattu 38), 4-128 (Tillekeratne 12), 5-139 (Tillekeratne 20), 6-185 (Tillekeratne 41), 7-200 (Tillekeratne 50).

*BOWLING: Gough* 9-0-37-1 (w 2; 2 fours; 5-0-24-1, 2-0-8-0, 2-0-5-0); Mullally 10-2-35-1 (w 1; 2 fours; 6-1-19-0, 4-1-16-1); Headley 5-1-22-0 (2 fours; one spell); *Ealham 6-0-33-1 (2 fours;* 3-0-19-0, 3-0-14-1); Croft 10-0-44-1 (w 1; 2 fours; 8-0-34-1, 2-0-10-0); Hollioake 10-0-32-3 (w 2; 1 four; one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 63 for 1.

**ENGLAND**

N V Knight
st Kaluwitharana b Chandana.....40
(54 balls, 2 fours)
*†A J Stewart run out (Muralitharan).....24
(36 balls, 3 fours)
G A Hick c Kaluwitharana
b Muralitharan.....37
(42 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)
N H Fairbrother not out.....67
*(105 balls, 1 six, 1 four)*
A J Hollioake b Muralitharan.....1
(5 balls)
*M W Alleyne st Kaluwitharana*
b Muralitharan.....18
(50 balls)
M A Ealham lbw b Tillekeratne.....1
(2 balls)
R D B Croft not out.....10
(9 balls)
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 6).....10
Total (6 wkts, 49.3 overs, 208min).....208

D W Headley, D Gough and A D *Mullally* did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59 (Knight 33), 2-87 (Hick 21), 3-128 (Fairbrother 23), 4-130 (Fairbrother 24), 5-187 (Fairbrother 57), 6-190 (Fairbrother 59).

BOWLING: Vaas 7.3-0-40-0 (nb 2; 3 fours; 5-0-25-0, 2-0-10-0, 0.3-0-5-0); Zoysa 6-0-31-0 (3 fours; 3-0-20-0, 3-0-11-0); Wickremasinghe 4-0-16-0 (1 four; one spell); Muralitharan 10-0-34-3 (nb 3; 1 six; 4-0-18-0, 3-0-8-2, 3-0-8-1); Chandana 10-1-41-1 (nb 1, w 1; 1 four; 4-0-19-1, 4-1-12-0, 2-0-10-0); Jayasuriya 10-1-35-0 (1 six; 9-1-27-0, 1-0-8-0); Tillekeratne 2-0-8-1 (one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 72 for 1.

England won by four wickets.

Match award: N H Fairbrother.

Umpires: S J Davis and P D Parker. Third umpire: A J McQuillan. Referee: P L van der Merwe (South Africa). Att: 12,363.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS: Jan 10: Eng*land bt Australia by 8 runs (revised target)* (Brisbane).

ENGLAND MATCHES TO COME (all day-night): Jan 15: v Australia (Mel*bourne); Jan 17: v Australia (Sydney);* Jan 19: v Sri Lanka (Melbourne); Jan 23: v Sri Lanka (Adelaide); Jan 26: v Australia (Adelaide); Jan 29: v Sri Lanka (Perth); Feb 3: *v Sri Lanka (Sydney); Feb 5: v Australia* (Sydney). Feb 10: First final (Sydney). Feb 12: Second final (Melbourne). Feb 14: Third final (Melbourne).

□ Compiled by Bill Frindall

## Scottish fight to maintain status

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE players of London Scottish, who have been subject all season to speculation that took them as far north as Edinburgh and now links them with a move to Bristol, were told yesterday by their chairman, Tony Tiarks, that he was trying to resolve the economic realities of a sport beset by the problems of professionalism.

"Our rugby team is doing a particularly good job and our players are the company," Tiarks said after weekend revelations that Bristol are prepared to buy 100 per cent of the shareholding of a first-division club to avoid exclusion from any Anglo-Welsh structure that may be agreed for next season. Bristol, who lead the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, have talked with Scottish and other first-division strugglers, to avoid the consequences of what they perceive to be a plot by "avaricious" proprietors of certain first-division clubs.

"We are dealing with the emotions of an amateur rugby *club and I'm the first to up*hold them," Tiarks said, "but there is a dilemma when the old ethos goes against the modern costs. The London Scottish [public limited] company is only one and a half years old, I have been told we are not members of the Scottish Rugby Union. So it's plain we're not dealing with a *120-year-old club. The real* world is pay day."

There has been no debate by London Scottish shareholders on the proposals outlined by Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, which — if acted upon — would merge the *playing strength of both clubs* and lose the Exiles' identity. The appeal for Tiarks is in the *established rugby population* of Bristol set against the rash of rugby clubs competing for spectators in West London.

Bristol's aggressive stance has embarrassed the Rugby Football Union (RFU), given the union's self-imposed dead*line of January 31 for next sea*son's structure to be agreed.

"The integrity of the existing regulations applies: if you are promoted, you go into division one," Terry Burwell, the RFU's operations director, said, but he cannot stipulate the competition into which Bristol will be promoted since talks of a two-division Anglo-Welsh league are ongoing.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1612

ACROSS
1 Marcel —, Fr. author (6)
4 A vegetable; burgeon (6)
8 Warm and comfortable (4)
9 Detailed examination (8)
10 Wife of US president (5,4)
13 Grey; (face) pale with shock (5)
15 Fusion (5)
16 (Japanese) mattress/bed (5)
18 A disbelieved prophet of doom (9)
21 (Body) framework (8)
22 Cut up; cut of meat (4)
23 Rectangular (6)
24 Daze (6)

DOWN
1 Quieten (6)
2 Impede (8)
3 Fish by dragging net (5)
5 Mindlessly optimistic person *(after E Porter)* (9)
6 Displace (from role) (4)
7 One from Florence region (6)
11 Policeman's baton (9)
12 (Gone) wrong (5)
14 Privation (8)
16 Humiliating failure (6)
17 Meddle (with eg mechanism) (6)
19 Skull cavity (5)
20 Moor; fierce, terrible (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1611
ACROSS: 1 Shamefaced 8 Bolster 9 Slash 10 Bind 11 Filament 13 Lubber 15 Wattle 17 Body blow 18 Evil 21 Taint 22 Inanity 23 Gamekeeper
DOWN: 2 Helen 3 Mate 4 Firkin 5 Castaway 6 Dialect 7 Chatterley 8 Bubble bath 12 Verbatim 14 Bidding 16 Yorick 19 Voile 20 Jade

TIMES TWO NEW YEAR WEEKEND JUMBO SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Braggadocios 7 Brasilia 12 Click 16 Gas lamp 17 Mansion 18 Period piece 19 Nineteen to the dozen 20 Tantrist 22 Prehensile 23 Strawberry blonde 26 Aria 27 Dragooning 28 Room service 31 Mummerset 32 Commercial 34 Ink sac 36 Theme 38 Top-drawer 41 Act the fool 43 Chersonese 44 King's Lynn 45 Ratel 47 Thirst 48 Saltarelli 50 Ras Tafari 53 Magnificent 55 Blackamoor 56 Utah 58 Character witness 60 Grand Duchy 62 Unsafely 63 Marriage settlement 67 Barquentine 68 Askance 69 Imitate 70 Ruled 71 Noblemen 72 Press gallery
DOWN: 1 Begin 2 Absenteeism 3 Grantees 4 Depressurisation 5 Come to light 6 Ornate 8 Rondo 9 September 10 Lark 11 Apocalypse 12 Capital transfer tax 13 Iberian 14 Keep the peace 15 Silent film 21 Arrogantly 22 Playmate 24 Angle-iron 25 Concurrent 29 In short 30 Cerebrospinal fluid 33 Chapsticks 35 Thanks for nothing 37 Echoing 39 Pied-à-terre 40 Wake-robin 42 Almighty 46 Atomic number 49 Leaf-stalks 50 Remorseless 51 Attaché case 52 Dirty linen 54 Taiwanese 57 Edgehill 59 Austral 61 Tenner 64 Reade 65 Teeny 66 Limb

## Atkinson given little time to save Forest

BY RICHARD HOBSON

RON ATKINSON will begin the unenviable job of trying to keep Nottingham Forest in the FA Carling Premiership on Friday. His appointment as manager until the end of the season was confirmed in a statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday and Peter Shreeves, who watched the 4-0 defeat against Coventry City on Saturday, has already begun employment as his assistant.

*The board of the plc owning* the club has given Atkinson permission to continue a holiday in Barbados to celebrate his wife's 50th birthday today. His position will be reviewed in the summer and he will earn a bonus of £250,000 if Forest avoid relegation. Micky Adams will revert to coaching, having taken temporary charge after the sacking of Dave Bassett last Tuesday.

Although Atkinson will have only £2 million to spend, he will try to make Carlton Palmer, the former England *midfield player, his first sign*ing. Whether Southampton will be prepared to sell him to one of their rivals in the bottom three is another matter.

"Ron will use the budget sooner rather than later," Shreeves, who was No 2 to Atkinson at Sheffield Wednesday last season, said. "This is a big job but if there is anybody who can achieve success at this club at this particular time, it is Big Ron."

Forest identified Atkinson as their first choice before *informing Bassett of his dis*missal last Tuesday. They were impressed with his *ability to lead* Wednesday away from trouble last year.

Atkinson: £2 million budget

However, he inherits his new job seven weeks later in the season with 17 rather than 24 games remaining in which to turn the situation around.

The side has gone 18 games without a win — a record for the Premiership — and sits seven points adrift from safety. Atkinson, 60 in March, begins with a home game against Arsenal on Saturday in a repeat of his first match last sea*son with Wednesday, which* ended in a 2-0 success.

Des Lyttle, the Forest defender, would have preferred Atkinson to arrive sooner in the week. "If he is going to get us out of this position, we need to start on Saturday and I don't think one day's preparation is enough," Lyttle said.

The appointment of Atkinson provoked a mixed reaction among supporters. Andy Lowe, the Editor of the *Tricky Tree* fanzine, said: "It seems to have been conveniently forgotten that while he kept Wednesday up *last year he also took them* down in 1990. You could bring back Brian Clough in his prime and it would still be too late for this season."

## Kidd keen to sign McAteer

BY STEPHEN WOOD

BRIAN KIDD, the Blackburn Rovers manager, is interested in signing Jason McAteer, the Liverpool midfield player, and the Ewood Park club may make a formal approach for him today.

McAteer has had his opportunities at Liverpool limited this season and it is understood that Blackburn will *offer £3.5 million for the Ire*land international. They were hopeful that Sébastien Perez would join Liverpool as part of the deal, but the midfield player wants to return to France.

Blackburn are confident that Tim Sherwood, their captain, will sign a new contract. Sherwood was openly critical of the regime under Roy Hodgson, Kidd's predecessor, and he was on the verge of a *move to Tottenham Hotspur.* Blackburn are unbeaten under Kidd and Sherwood has always maintained that, as long as the club displays ambition, he will not leave.

Smillie dismissed, page 44

## McRae's efforts might prove worthless

BY JEREMY HART

COLIN McRAE, *the former world champi*on, might not be allowed to score points in the first three rounds of the 1999 world rally championship that starts this weekend in Monte Carlo.

*The Briton's new Martini Ford Focus* is being forced to run in Monte Carlo, Sweden and Kenya with a non-standard water pump. Although the other teams competing in the championship have allowed the radical new car to compete, there is doubt as to whether the team will benefit from any top-six places.

The problem has occurred because McRae's car, unlike others competing in the world series, does not have a road-going performance version. Ford have purpose-built the engine using a non-standard water pump, infringing the strict rally regulations.

"If there are no points to be won then there is no point in competing," Malcolm Wilson, whose M-Sport outfit in Cumbria runs Ford's rally team, said. "I'm confident that we will be allowed to score points, but we won't know until the weekend."

The team *is working round the clock to* finish their two new rally cars for its world debut. The £1 million Focuses are still in bits at Wilson's Cockermouth base. "If you saw the cars now you'd never think we could start on Sunday," Wilson said. "But we will."

McRae is in France carrying out last-*minute tests on the Focus that, regardless* of its eligibility for points, is unlikely to be competitive for at least three rallies.